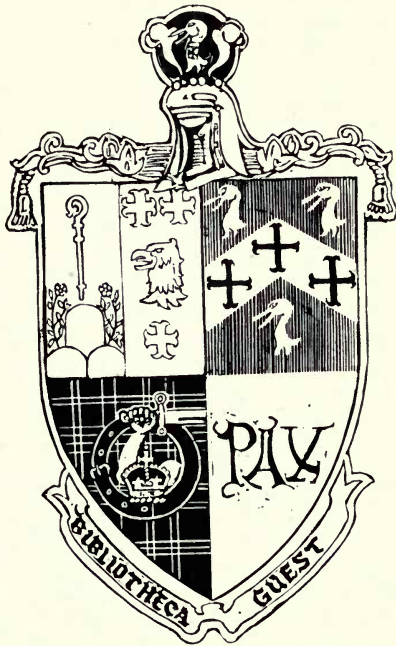




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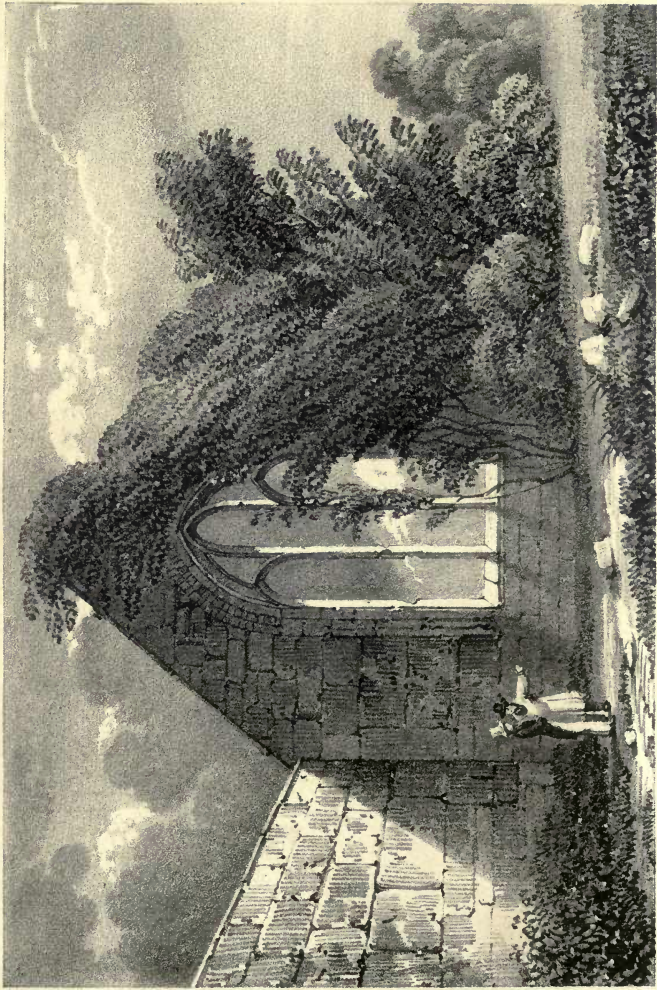




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ANCIENT CHAPEL, NEWNHAM ABBEY.

THE
HISTORY
OF
Newenham Abbey,

IN THE
COUNTY OF DEVON.

BY JAMES DAVIDSON.

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“ So flits the world’s uncertain span !
Nor zeal for God, nor love for man,
Gives mortal monuments a date
Beyond the power of Time and Fate.
The towers must share the builder’s doom ;
Ruin is theirs, and his a tomb :
But better boon benignant Heaven
To Faith and Charity has given,
And bids the Christian hope sublime
Transcend the bounds of Fate and Time.”

SCOTT.

THE
HISTORY
OF
Newenham Abbey.



THE monastic establishments of this country rank among the most interesting objects to which a student of its antiquities can direct his attention. Whether these widely extended and magnificent foundations are viewed in connexion with the religious or the political history of the nation, with its civil and domestic institutions, or with the art and sciences which adorn an empire, their rise, their progress, and their dissolution, are equally important subjects for consideration. But leaving the general view of monachism to those authors who treat of the subject at large, this humble volume will attempt to record the particular and local history of one of the numerous monasteries which existed in the county of Devon.*

* The religious houses in Devonshire alone, amounted to more than forty.

The site of the abbey of Newenham is within the parish of Axminster, at the distance of about a mile south from the town. The name "Nyweham" first given to the establishment, was expressive of its settlement, signifying the new home or dwelling; and in the charter of Pope Innocent IV. confirming the foundation, it is called "de novo manso;" the name has been progressively altered to Niweham, Niewham, Newham, Newnham, and Newenham, which last is its present usual designation.

This monastery had its origin in the devotional feelings of William, the younger son of Reginald de Mohun, a powerful and distinguished baron of the thirteenth century, who, by his marriage with Alice the fourth daughter of his guardian Lord Brewer, had enlarged his already extensive property in the west of England. William de Mohun being without issue, resolved to appropriate his land and possessions to the foundation of an abbey of the Cistercian order of monks. This was in accordance with the superstition of that period, which considered the endowment of a monastery to be the means of ensuring both temporal and eternal prosperity to the founder and his family; and it was especially required of persons who had no children, that they should give alms and endow

charitable institutions.* Wishing that his purpose should be effected on a scale of sufficient liberality, but not being possessed of a manorial property convenient for the purpose, William de Mohun proposed to his eldest brother Reginald, who had inherited the patrimonial estates, that he would convey to him a certain portion of his lands, if Reginald would assign some suitable manor for the endowment of the intended establishment. The estates which William thus proposed to convey, consisted of the manors of Tor and Maryansleigh in Devon, with Endcombe near Dunster in Somersetshire, and Clynton near Woodstock in Oxfordshire, as also the annual rent of sixty shillings, arising from Andrynton near Northampton. It was moreover conceded on the part of William, that his brother should be considered the founder, and become the patron of the new abbey, which was a stipulation of importance, inasmuch as the patron of a monastery exercised his influence in the election of its abbot, and maintained a considerable degree of authority over

* Fosbroke's *British Monachism*, 6, 8. A curious charter has been preserved of an Italian Count, who declares, that, struck with reflections upon his sinful state, he had taken counsel with certain religious, how he should atone for his offences. "Accepto consilio ab iis, excepto si renunciare sæculo possem, nullum esse melius inter eleemosinarum virtutes, quàm si de propriis meis substantiis in monasterium concederem. Hoc consilium ab iis libenter, et ardentissimo animo ego accepi." *Hallam's Middle Ages*, ii. 203, note.

its concerns. Reginald de Mohun entered readily into his brother's views, and agreed to the proposition, offering him the choice of one of three manors, viz. those of Minehead and Fleming's Ottery in Somerset, and Axminster in Devon. William de Mohun now requested the advice and assistance of Acius de Gisortio, the abbot of Beaulieu in Hampshire, a monastery founded by King John in the year 1204, and which had been chosen to supply a colony of monks for the new abbey in the event of its foundation. Abbot Acius, after a personal inspection of the lands on the manors, and a consultation with the monks of his house, determined on Axminster. To the grant of this manor Reginald agreed accordingly, as appears by an instrument dated on the morrow of St. Michael, 29th Hen. III. (1245) provided that the royal license could be obtained before the feast of St. Martin in the year after the following one.* It was further stipulated by the parties that if the King's permission was not granted within the prescribed period, the several estates should revert to their owners, except that the manor of Tor should become the property of Reginald and

* This deed is copied into the chartulary of the abbey at fol. 19, b. The witnesses to it are Simon abbot of Cleve, Hugh a monk there, Hameline de Deaudone, William de Mohun of Ham, William Malherbe, Robert de Cuodstane, Richard de Ousehywys and others.

his heirs for ever. In consideration of this, Reginald engaged to pay during his life a hundred marks annually towards the building of the new abbey, to the abbot of Beaulieu, who should also in the mean time hold possession of the manor of Axminster in trust for the object in view. Two monks were accordingly despatched from Beaulieu, who took possession of one of the most fertile spots upon the manor of Axminster for the site of the future abbey,* where they remained until the subsequent arrival of the convent; and in the mean while proper application was made for the royal license to the foundation. It seems however that neither the abbot of Beaulieu nor Reginald de Mohun were in haste to bring the matter to a conclusion within the prescribed period, each being probably very well content with the existing posture of the affair, for nearly a year elapsed without any renewal of the application to the king by either of the parties. At length John Godard, one of the monks of Beaulieu, afterwards the first abbot of Newenham, perceiving the anxiety of William de Mohun, and his grief on account of the delay, obtained at his earnest request a personal audience of the sovereign, and

* It was an old saying that "wherever there is a good prospect, or a pleasant spot of land, a friar is sure to be found;" but, as Dr. Johnson observed, while the world allowed the monks their choice, it is surely no dishonour that they chose well.

urged the subject on his favourable consideration. By the assistance, in the words of the registrar, of God and the blessed virgin, with the prayers of the king's brother Richard earl of Cornwall, the petition was at length complied with, and the king issued his royal license, dated at Sandford on the 14th of July 1246, for the foundation of the abbey and its colonization from Beaulieu.* This temporary but important obstacle being now removed, Reginald de Mohun proceeded by his deed of gift, to grant the manor and hundred of Axminster with all their appertenances, to God, the blessed virgin, and the Cistercian monks, in frank almoigne.† This gift is stated to be for the health "p' salute" of his own soul, and those of his mother's father and brother and their wives, the souls of his father and mother, of his own two wives, and of his brother, who are all specified, together with those of his heirs, and of all his ancestors and descendants. In this deed the donor especially mentions rents payable of right to the hundred of

* A copy of this instrument will be found in the Appendix, No. I.

† Frank almoigne was a tenure which exempted the holder of lands from every kind of obligation except that of saying masses for the benefit of the grantor's family.—Du Cange, "Eleemosyna Libera." Hence arose the customary fraud, encouraged by the religious, on the part of lay proprietors, who granted estates to the church, and received them again by way of fief or lease, exempted from public burthens.—England during the Middle Ages, ii. 204.

Axminster from several individuals, and he as carefully cuts off the rents heretofore payable thereto from his own manors of Otery-Fleming and Holditch. The instrument is witnessed by Blondy bishop of Exeter, Richard earl of Cornwall the king's brother, Simon earl of Leicester, and several other noblemen.* It is without date, but was no doubt issued in 1246, as on the 11th of July in that year, the bishop of Exeter had pronounced his benediction upon the site of the intended structure, and consecrated the cemetery, after having caused four crosses to be erected to mark the boundaries of the sacred place, and having walked round it in solemn procession.†

Reginald's grant was also confirmed by a deed in another form under his seal,‡ and further ratified by an instrument under the king's hand dated at Northampton on the 3rd of August, 1247.§

* The original deed is preserved among the ancient instruments relating to the manor, in the possession of the representatives of the late Mr. Frampton, of the New Inn, London. A small portion of the seal remains attached to it. See the Appendix, No. II.

† Chartulary of Newenham, fol. 24. b. "Hoc anno (1246) fundata fuit Abbatia de Neweham, filia tertia Belli-Loci Regis Angliæ."—*Annales Waverliensis* in "*Scriptores xx.*" edit. Gale. P. I. pp. 52. 54.

‡ Recited in a confirmatory charter of the 14th of Edw. III. for which see the Appendix No. VI.

§ Chart. fol. 20. b. The original is among the deeds which belonged to the late Mr. Frampton, and has a small portion of the seal still remaining. The names of the subscribing witnesses

In the mean time a colony of twelve monks had been selected for Newenham from the members of Beaulieu. The election took place on the 30th of December, 1246, and the convent with John Godard, who had been chosen their abbot, and four lay brethren "comisi" quitted that monastery on the third day after, to take possession of the new foundation. They proceeded that day as far as Christchurch, where they were in all probability entertained at the priory founded by Flambard, bishop of Durham, in the reign of William Rufus. The next day they reached Bindon abbey near Wareham in Dorsetshire, a monastery of their own order founded in the year 1172, and the following night was passed at Friar's Waddon, about four miles from Dorchester, a manor which appears to have belonged to Letley abbey in Hampshire, itself also a recent emanation from Beaulieu. On the fourth night of their journey, the convent at Ford, a Cistercian abbey about six miles from Newenham, hospitably entertained their brethren and future neighbours. On the day after, which was the 6th of January, 1247, the Lord's day and the feast of the Epiphany, the monks passed

to it are, John Mauncell, Ralph Fitz Nicholas, and John Fitz Geoffry, then Justices of Ireland; Paulinus Peynre, Robert de Mustegros, Stephen Longespee, Robert Walerand, Geoffry de Langelee, Robert le Noreys, William de Bellomonte, and Peter Branc'.

through the town of Axminster, attended by the founders Reginald and William de Mohun, followed by a numerous retinue, and accompanied by a large concourse of people. Proceeding thus to Newenham, they entered the site of their future habitation in solemn procession, chanting the *Salve Regina*,* and greeted by the joyful congratulations of the multitude,† who revered them for their supposed sanctity, and welcomed them with greater justice as contributors to the alleviation of their temporal necessities.

The convent seated in their abode, now applied to the Pope for his confirmation of all their proceedings, without which, at that unhappy period, the acts of the persons concerned would have been invalid, although sanctioned by the authority of their sovereign. Reginald de Mohun was the bearer of the application to Lyons, where the

* The *Salve Regina* is the following hymn or prayer to the Virgin Mary, which is recited during part of the year by the Roman Catholic church in the office of the breviary. It is said by Albericus, in his *Chron. ad an. 1230*, page 263, to have been composed to the last line by Adimar, the friend of Pope Urban II. and bishop of Pau, in 1080. Durandus says it was composed by Peter, bishop of Compostella. The concluding words, "Oh! clemens," &c. were added by Bernard, abbot of Clairvaux.

"*Salve Regina, mater misericordiæ, vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve! Ad te clamamus exules filii Hevæ; ad te suspiramus gementes et flentes in hâc lachrymarum valle. Eia ergo, advocata nostra, illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte. Et Jesum benedictum fructum ventris tui nobis post hoc exilium ostende. Oh! clemens, oh, pia, oh, dulcis virgo Maria!"*

† *Chart. fol. 24, b.*

pontiff then kept his court. The founder of the new monastery was received with distinguished honours and the required grant was readily issued.* This charter, which is dated in 1248, the sixth year of the pontificate of Innocent IV. is of great length. It is addressed to the abbot and convent and their successors, and confirms to them the grant of the manor of Axminster, as well as all future grants and gifts, states that they are exempted from tithes of all lands cultivated by their own hands or at their expense, and bestows on the monastery the privilege of sanctuary, with several other advantages, exemptions, and regulations, all tending to the exclusive advantage of the community.† It may be here observed that in addition to this instrument which is designated by the registrar the great grant, “p’uilegiu’ magnu’,” there are recited in the chartulary of this abbey a number of papal bulls, bestowing various privileges and immunities, ecclesiastical and civil, on the Cistercian order in general, as well as two institutes in favour of this monastery in particular, which will be noticed in the sequel.

The transactions of this professedly religious

* An account of this interview and its results, will be given in some particulars relating to the family of Mohun, near the close of this volume.

† Chart. fol. 21.

community will now be related in chronological order, so far as they appear to be worthy of notice, and as our materials, which for the most part are their own records, have supplied us with information; and they will be arranged under the administration of the several abbots whose names have been handed down to us. Some particulars respecting the value and description of the conventual estates, the buildings, the abbey register, and a chartulary, which have been preserved to the present time, as well as other local and miscellaneous matters, will be reserved for the close of the subject.

I. JOHN GODARD, a native of Canterbury, and one of the monks of Beaulieu, was the first abbot of Newenham.* He was elected to this dignity, as we have said, on the 30th of December, 1246, with a colony of twelve persons bearing the names which follow.

* The Abbot was the father or head of his house, and the high priest of the fraternity. His power was limited only by deviations from the rule of his order, and commensurate with his power were his privileges. He was treated with the utmost ceremony and respect, both at home and abroad, and associated with people of the first distinction, whose pleasures and amusements he shared. He had absolute controul over the revenues of his house, and according to those resources were the splendour in which he lived, and the hospitality which he maintained; and as, until a late period, he was accountable to none for his conduct, the good or evil qualities of the man stamped the character of the abbot.

Michael, a native of Bridgewater, in Somersetshire, who for more than fifteen years had filled the office of sacrist, at Beaulieu.*

Geoffry of Chypyngbourne, in Sussex.

Walter of Huntspill, in Somersetshire, elected prior.†

William, a native of Flanders, but brought up at Southampton, appointed sub-prior.‡

Henry of Persolte, in Berkshire, named to be cellarer,§ afterwards the second abbot.

Thomas of Botham, near Salisbury, first the porter,|| and afterwards cellarer, to whose credit

* The sacrist, secretarius, or sacristan, was an officer in the convent whose intricate duty it was to arrange and clean the several vestments, goods, utensils, and ornaments for the various services of the church, and to take the charge of them, with the assistance of a servant, who, as well as himself, slept in the church for their better security. His title and a part of his duty are perpetuated in the modern sexton.

† The prior ranked next to the abbot, and was deputy in his absence, or during a vacancy; his privileges were numerous, and the respect paid to him was proportionate to his authority, which, within the house, was scarcely less than that of his superior.

‡ The sub-prior was the prior's deputy, and performed the inferior duties of that officer. The infirmary was under his peculiar care, and his office was to watch over the conduct of the monks and servants, and report any irregularities.

§ The cellarer had the care of everything relating to the food of the monks, and the vessels of the cellar, kitchen, and refectory; he had also the personal charge of the sick.

|| The porter was an officer of great trust and responsibility. He kept the keys of the gate, which he left only on occasion of duty or command; he distributed food and alms to poor people and pilgrims.

it was thought worthy of being recorded, that he endeavoured by all the means in his power to maintain peace and order in the convent.

Richard of Ildesbeye, chosen to the office of precentor.*

Adam of East-hoclio, who was reputed a man of learning and accomplishments.

Nicholas of Cornwall.

Walter of Overton, in Hampshire.

Ralph of Oviton, near Winchester.

Ralph of Canterbury.

The names of the four lay brethren† who were selected to accompany the above, were Robert of Fernham, Jordan of Copfold in Essex, Henry of Cheselburne in Dorset, and Walter of Mells in Wiltshire.

At this early period of the establishment, the convent were obliged to occupy a more humble habitation than their increasing opulence enabled them afterwards to possess. The premises were in an unfinished state, and their chapel, a small part of which yet remains, was an inferior building

* The precentor or chantor had the entire regulation of the choral service; it was his office to arrange the processions, to teach the monks to sing and read, to take charge of the archives and books, and to keep them in repair.

† The lay brothers were numerous in every monastery, and were of various orders and degrees of rank, some wearing the habit of the order and others not. They were the agents, messengers, artizans, servants, and work-people of the house.

compared to the magnificent scale of the conventual church which was shortly afterwards erected.

Abbot Godard is represented to have been a good man, and of great credit, wise, eloquent, and versed in almost every branch of science “*vir bonus et magnæ auctoritatis, sapiens, eloquens, et fere in omni sapientiâ peritissimus.*” In that age of scarcity of books, the present of manuscripts which he made to his convent as the foundation of their library, was no inconsiderable gift for an individual: it consisted of a small but good copy of the Holy Bible, *Moralia* from the book of Job, the *Etymologies* of St. Isidore, the *Sentences* of William Bishop of Auxerre in two volumes, a gloss or commentary upon the Old Testament, another on the Gospel by St. Luke, the works of St. John Damascene, *Boetius de Consolatione philosophiæ*, Cicero’s *Treatises on Friendship and Old Age*, a volume entitled *John Beleth*, and another called *Abel*.* This enlightened superior resigned his office

* At this period the library of Glastonbury abbey, which was perhaps the most numerous and valuable in England, is said to have contained four hundred volumes, but in the year 1300, the academical library of Oxford consisted only of a few tracts kept in chests under St. Mary’s Church, and the first distinct building appropriated to a library, was that belonging to Merton college, founded in 1376. In the reign of Edward III, the scarcity of books was still so great, that Richard of Bury, chancellor of England, gave the abbot of St. Albans fifty pounds weight of silver, for between thirty and forty volumes. Warton i. dissert. 3.—Chalmers’s *Oxford*, i. 10.—See Du Cange, v. “*Scriptores.*”

on the 16th of August, 1248, having been chosen abbot of Clyve, in the county of Somerset, where he continued for many years, but ultimately retired to York, where he finished his days.*

II. HENRY DE PERSOLTE or SPERSHOLTE, a native of Berkshire, succeeded to the dignity of abbot on the 6th of September, 1248,† having been elevated to it from the office of cellarer. His jurisdiction is marked in the registers by the great acquisition of property gained by the convent during its short period. Part of this wealth seems to have been acquired by purchase, but much more by the devotion of individuals, who thought perhaps that the claims of this new foundation enhanced the merits of their liberality.

One of the first estates which was added to the possessions of the abbey at this time appears to have been some lands called Bacalar's,‡ with others called Gorham. The first were the property of a family, who, as usual in that period, bore the same name as their estate. These were granted to the abbot and convent on conditions which, whether equivalent to their value or not, proved at least the

* Chart. fol. 4, 112. Register of Newenham, fol. 52. The latter states that he resigned his office on the 4th of April, 1248.

† Chart. fol. 4. The Register, fol. 52, says the 6th of April.

‡ The precise situation of these lands is not known, but they appear to have been near the Abbey buildings; a mill is mentioned as upon them.

predilection with which their owners were inspired for the advantages of a monastic life; and the deeds relating to the property as transcribed in the chartulary are worthy of notice, presenting as they do a view of the legal practice of the time, and shewing one of the means by which the incomes of monasteries became so large and their inmates so numerous.

We are presented first with a marriage settlement made by Walter de Bacalar's, on Rose the daughter of Gilbert de Harptre, for her life, and on his heirs by her, of all his land, with a messuage and its appertences which Jordan de Bacalar's held of him, at the annual rent of two shillings, moreover all his land of Cleyhull, with its appertences, lying on the western side of the river Erty, now Yarty, adjoining the land belonging to the chapel of St. Giles at Kilmington, with an acre and a half of land adjoining the meadow of Shapmo' and next to the land of William Rae. A provision is made in the deed for the annual payment by his wife to him and his heirs of a nominal rent or acknowledgement, viz. a pair of gloves or a penny, "vnu' par' cerotecar' v'l vnu' denariu'," per annum. The lands are also confirmed to the intended bride and her heirs by Walter de Bacalar's the son of Walter by a former wife, in consideration of her conveyance to him, for the term of her life, of four acres of land situated in the marsh,

“in maresco,” a part of her dower. Walter de Bacalar’s, it is to be presumed, after his wife had borne him three sons and a daughter, became again a widower, and was now induced for the health of his own soul and those of his kindred, “p’ salute a’i’e mee et om’i p’pinquior’,” to convey the whole of his property in Bacalar’s to the abbot and convent of Newenham in frank almoigne, provided only that he should be allowed support as one of the monks of the house, that they should provide for his eldest son, and that his daughter should receive a marriage portion out of the goods of the monastery. A deed also appears by which the abbot and convent engage to supply for Adam, the eldest son of the donor, the necessaries of food and clothing, and agree that he shall remain in the service of the house until of age, when if he shall so desire, he shall be received upon the establishment, “in ordine’ dom’s n’re,” or shall be competently situated upon the abbey lands, and he in return remits and renounces in favour of the abbot and convent, all claims to his right in the whole tenement with its appertenances which Richard, called the Hayward, his father’s brother, formerly held in the marsh of Axminster, “in maresco de Axm’.” This Adam seems to have become a devoted friend to the convent, for at a subsequent period, we have a deed under his hand and seal,

by which “p’ salute a’i’e mee et patris mei et m’ris mee et om’i b’n’f’c’or’ meor’,” he grants two acres and a half of arable land given him by T. Boye, “to God and the blessed Mary,” for the support of lights to the honor of the virgin in the church of Newenham, where the daily mass is celebrated; for which they are to pay to the said T. Boye, a rose annually on the day of the feast of St. John the Baptist, in lieu of all secular services, exactions, and demands. An agreement is also transcribed between the abbot and convent and Walter de Bacalar’s the elder, by which the former engage to endeavour to obtain for Walter the privilege of a monk, for the term of his life, to pay him ten shillings annually for his gown, “ad suam robam,” and to furnish him with two pairs of shoes, “duo paria sotulariu’,” in the year, and further, if he should be sent to any distant place on the service of the house, the abbot is bound to furnish him with a horse, and to pay his needful expenses. The abbot also agrees to take charge of his three sons and his daughter, the former to remain in the service of the house until of age, when they may choose whether they will remain there, the latter to reside where the abbot and convent shall appoint, not within the abbey walls, but in their charge, until competently provided for. Walter in return makes over the whole of his lands with their

appertenances in Bacalar's, "to God, the blessed virgin, and the abbey," and engages to serve them devotedly and faithfully all the days of his life. The agreement is sworn to by the parties, "coram viris legalibz" and is signed and sealed by them in the presence of witnesses. Whether the sons remained in the service of the abbey does not appear, but a deed is transcribed by which at a subsequent period, Thomas the son of Walter de Bacalar's, by Rose his wife, grants to the abbot and convent a messuage and curtlage "curtillo"* in the town of Axminster, with all the land and its appertenances which he had taken in exchange with the abbot, as also his right and title to lands, part of the manor of Axminster, which had descended to him from his father and brother, in consideration of five marks and a bullock of the value of four shillings. Matilda also the daughter of Walter de Bacalar's, by a deed under their respective seals, confirms to the abbot and convent the tenement and lands in the marsh, which Richard the Hayward her uncle formerly held, and conveys in addition seven acres of marsh land, which Juliana the sister of the said Richard also held, in consideration of their grant to her of the tenement and appertenances in Cleyhull, which Walter her

* Curtlage or curtillage is a provincial expression, still in use, for a yard and premises, appendages to a dwelling.

father held of the abbey, on payment by her of the annual rent of four shillings.

The lands of Gorham were a purchase.* They consisted of four acres of arable and one of meadow, lying between the abbey buildings and the river Axe. These were the property of William de Kamton, who conveyed them to Paganus de Bacalar's in consideration of half a silver mark, and the annual rent of twenty-eight pence. Ralph the son of Paganus, in consideration of a silver mark, conveys to the abbot and convent, in frank almoigne, all his interest in these lands, and in a tenement with its appertenances in Bacalar's, subject to a rent of six-pence to Philip de Kamton and his heirs. Philip son of William de Kampton, conveys the land, subject to six-pence rent, to Robert Kyng for twenty two shillings sterling, and he to the abbot and convent for forty shillings. They purchase the interest of two widows Matilda and Organa de Halstowe, daughters of William Sampson, who possess the rent of six-pence per annum, at the price of six-shillings and eight-pence, and Philip de Kamton conveys his original right in the lands of Gorham to the abbot and convent for one hundred shillings sterling. Thus we find that at the middle of the thirteenth century, lands of

* Derived from the Anglo Saxon, 'gor, dirt,' and 'ham, a home or dwelling.' These fields are in a low and damp situation.

good quality were purchased in fee simple at the cost of twenty-nine-shillings and four-pence an acre. It is probable however that the acre was much larger than the statute measure of the present day.

This industrious abbot obtained also for his monastery in the year 1248, the reversion of a tenement called Tuddesheye, now Studhays, in Kilmington. By what means it was acquired does not appear, but it seems to have been the property of Nicholas Bonville, who at his death in 1266, bestowed on the abbey a rent charge upon these lands, which will be mentioned hereafter. Actual possession of these premises was not obtained till eighty two years had elapsed. To a future page must also be referred the particulars relating to an estate called Cranmore, which was acquired in the same year, and which formed part of the lands called Furzleigh Grange.

In the year 1248 also, Reginald de Mohun, the founder and patron of the abbey, for the sake, as his deed states, of the souls of his parents, grants "to God and the glorious Virgin Mary," and to the monks and brethren of Newenham, in frank almoigne, the church of Lovepit, now called Lup-pit, in the county of Devon,* as well the patronage,

* Luppit is a village in the hundred of Axminster, about four miles north east of Honiton. It is said by Pole and

as all the rights and appertenances thereto belonging. The deed is witnessed by Wymond de Raleigh, Hameline de Beandon, William de Mohun, John de Brecash, Geoffry Petyt, and Matthew de Bampton, knights, Ralph de Donne and many others.* Reginald, by way of securing his grant, or in the vain endeavour to prevent litigation respecting it, addresses letters to the bishop, and to the dean and chapter of Exeter, in which he states the gift which he had bestowed in compassion on his poor abbey of Newenham, "co'passione sup' paup'cula abb'ia n'ra de N." and requests their charitable co-operation in securing the right of presentation to the abbot and convent. Notwithstanding these precautions, strengthened as they were a few years after by a papal bull confirming the grant, their right was not only questioned but for many years interrupted by proceedings on the part of one of the family of Carew, as will be noticed in a future page.

But these are not all the acquisitions by which the finances of the house were improved

Risdon, to have taken its name from a habitation in a low place or pit, occupied by some monks, who were transferred thence by William de Mohun to the abbey of Newenham, to which he also gave the lands belonging to the cell. There is no mention of these circumstances in the registers, but that the abbey was possessed of lands at Luppit, besides those of the rectory, appears to be probable from some leases which will be subsequently noticed.

* Chart. fol. 74.

during the government of abbot de Persholte. The manor with the advowson of the church of Plenynt, now called Pelynt, near West Looe in the county of Cornwall, was held in fee farm by Sir Giles de Cancellis or de Chanceaux, of Lifton, in the county of Devon, and was bestowed by his executors upon the abbot and convent in compliance with his will. The particulars relating to this grant, with some account of the property, will be stated at length in the sequel.

In addition to the possessions thus rapidly obtained, a portion of the lands of Shapwick was added to the conventual property. The acquisition of this valuable estate was promoted by the charitable assistance of Lady Alice de Mohun, the mother of the founder and zealous patron of the abbey. The chartulary affords us a copy of a deed, which, though not dated, must have been executed about the year 1255, by which the abbot and convent grant to Sir Reginald the celebration of a mass with the office for the dead, by one of the monks of Newenham daily, for ever, for the soul of his mother Alice of pious memory. It is further stipulated that the said mass shall on no account be neglected, on any day when by the Cistercian rule, masses and offices for the dead are allowed to be celebrated, and that for those days on which it shall be necessarily omitted, the deficiency shall

be supplied at the first convenient opportunity. For this consideration Sir Reginald bestows upon the abbot and convent sixty silver marks towards the purchase of Shapwick, in accordance with the will of his mother, for whose soul's sake he also conferred many good gifts on the abbey. The deed is then stated to be sealed and witnessed in the usual form. A detailed account of the manor or grange of Shapwick will be found in another section of this volume. The property was obtained at various periods, but entire possession was not gained until the year 1333, under the abbacy of John de Geytyngton.

But while the revenues of the monastery were thus augmented, the community were on the other hand obliged to submit to a kind of spoliation, by an arbitrary exercise of power on the part of another religious house. The neighbouring village of Uplyme formed one of the dependent tythings on the hundred of Axminster, and, in addition to suit of court, was accustomed to pay annually at the sheriff's torn, the sum of ten shillings, and at the hundred court, a certain rent of six shillings and eight pence yearly, called herderisgeld or horderisgene.* The manor of Uplyme had been

* This word has not been found in the glossaries, but is probably derived from the Anglo Saxon 'hordere, a treasurer,' and 'gild, a tribute.' The payment is now called auxiliary money.

granted by one of our early sovereigns to the abbot and convent of Glastonbury, and that powerful community had sufficient influence to compel those of Newenham to a surrender of these lawful claims. This they effected by the king's writ and the consent of the founders of Newenham. The sum of forty marks it is true was given as a compensation, which, as it was more than twenty-two years purchase, was perhaps an equitable consideration for their loss; but that the affair was looked upon as an arbitrary and unwelcome exercise of authority, is evident from a passage in the chartulary, which states that the abbot was compelled to submit. A copy of the deed of release to abbot Michael and the convent of Glastonbury, which must have been executed about A. D. 1249, is entered among the abbey records.*

Previous to this time it appears that demands had been made upon the abbot and convent for tithes of the produce of lands in their occupation, from which they considered themselves exempted by the privileges of the Cistercian order. The claimants, who are not specified, but who were no doubt the holders of the living of Axminster, seem to have gone so far as to seize the goods and molest the persons of the monks. Abbot Henry in conse-

* Fol. 89 × b.

quence lost no time in obtaining letters from the Pope, which set the question at once at rest, and relieved the convent of all further difficulty on this head, by depriving the church of a considerable portion of its revenue. Two letters appear in the chartulary dated respectively on the 12th of July, and the 12th of August, 1249, addressed to the archbishop, bishops, abbots, priors, deans, archdeacons, archpresbyters, and other ecclesiastical officers of the province of Canterbury, reciting the grievances, directing compensation to be made, and protecting the religious from all further invasions. Their privileges are herein stated to be exemption from any sentence of excommunication or interdict, immunity from tithes on the produce of their fisheries, gardens, and all lands cultivated by their own hands, or at their expense, and of the pasture of their cattle.

The monks of Newenham had hitherto performed their offices of devotion in the small chapel which had been erected at the first foundation of the monastery, but their increasing opulence and the enlarged number of their inmates now called for a more spacious edifice, and one better suited in every respect to the prosperous condition of the establishment. The erection of a conventual church was accordingly determined on, and abbot de Persholte had the satisfaction before he resigned

the office which he had held so much to the advantage of his convent, of causing the ground to be opened in preparation for the foundations of a building of appropriate dimensions. The abbot was not however permitted to witness its progress, being compelled by a rapidly advancing illness to abdicate his dignity, which he did on the 3rd of May, in the year 1250.

III. JOHN DE PONTE-ROBERTI, or of Robertsbridge, prior of Beaulieu, "vir valde religiosus" was now chosen abbot. He lost no time in proceeding with the erection of the church, for on the 6th of July, in the year of his accession, 1250,* he caused the first stone to be laid in the foundation by Walter, prior of Newenham. Five . . . stones were at the same time also placed . . . by the prior, and six more by the monks, . . . in the form of a cross, which marked the boundaries of the sacred place. Blondy . . . bishop of Exeter, who at the request of the abbot officiated on the occasion, now pronounced the dedication of the edifice and of the whole site of the

* "Anno gr'e mill'mo CC^o q'nquagesimo pridie nonas Julii vid'lt in octab' ap'lor' Petri et Pauli posit' est p'm's lapis in fundame'to ecc'ie b'e Marie de Nyweham, &c." Chart. fol. 25. William of Worcester in his Itinerary, page 90, states on the authority of a calendar of the monastery "Dedicatio ecclesiæ de Newenham 18^o. die Aprilis, in honore beatæ Mariæ."

abbey, in the name of the Holy Trinity, to the honour of the blessed virgin and all saints; and at the same time gave sentence against such persons as should be found to commit any act of violence within its boundaries.

Of this abbot's administration, though it lasted nearly two years, we have no further account, except that he caused the court with the conventual buildings to be enclosed and surrounded with a moat, and that he presented to the church a volume described as "Ex quatuor evangelistis." He resigned his office on the 24th of February, 1252.

IV. GEOFFRY DE BLANCHEVILLE, who held an office in the abbey of Beaulieu with the title of "Placitator,"* was elected abbot of Newenham, on the 29th of March, 1252, and his legal abilities were most successfully exerted in the enlargement of the revenues of his house, and the extension of its influence. In the first year of his government the lands called Wranghays were added to the conven-

* Placitator, "Litigator." 'Plaideur.'—Du Cange. Because the care of souls was a superior object to all temporal concerns, the Council of Mentz forbade abbots to appear in secular causes without the consent of the bishop, and enjoined them to appoint advocates or agents; an office which several canons permitted a religious person, with the consent of his abbot, to undertake. Accordingly we find them appointing their monks attorneys. Several statutes exist, allowing the privilege of appointing attorneys to abbots.—Brit. Monach. 164.

tual estates. The extent of this property is not mentioned, but the transcripts of the deeds respecting it present us with the following particulars. Richard Wrange for the health of his soul, with those of his wife Alianor, his father, mother, and all his kindred, bestows upon the abbot and convent, in frank almoigne, all his tenement with its appertenances in Wrangheye, free from all services, customs, demands, and secular exactions, in lands, meadows, feedings, and pastures, in paths, ways, waters, in wet and in dry "in madido et in sicco" for ever, in consideration of nine silver marks paid him towards a provision for his children. By another deed the same Richard conveys to the abbot and convent, all the land which he possesses below Bacalar's, and all his meadow in the moor which lies between "le Stauneway" and the land called "Mulolamide" on the one side, and between the water called Milebroke and Suthcroft on the other, on condition that he, his wife, and his heirs, shall participate in the benefits arising from the prayers, charities, and other good deeds performed within the abbey. For the same consideration he further grants the whole of the enclosed land which had been formerly held by Reginald de Cranmore. The same Richard Wrange and Alianor his wife, as appears by an agreement in two parts, of the same tenor,

but varying in expression, also give and grant for themselves and their heirs, the whole of their lands in Wranghays with all their appertences, on the following conditions, viz., that they should receive annually from the house at Newenham ten quarters of wheat and five quarters of oats, by four equal quarterly payments, four pence every seven years by way of an allowance "loco pitanciâ," and eleven shillings a year for their clothing; that the abbot and convent shall give them nine silver marks as a provision for their children, with an acre of meadow in Langemedede, and pasture for four cows and a horse on the abbey demesne; that their eldest son Richard shall be placed at school, "ponat' ad erudiend' l'ratura'," and shall, if he so determines, serve in the house of Newenham all the days of his life, on being supplied with food and clothing. The abbot and convent further engage to find Richard and his wife a suitable dwelling house in the town of Axminster for their lives at the yearly rent of one penny; to which place shall be brought for them annually, two fair two-horse loads of fuel, and three fair cart loads of turves, to be dug at Richard's cost. It is further provided, that on the death of either Richard or his wife, the survivor shall be entitled to half only of the before mentioned allowances, and that in case Alianor should survive her husband, and should lay claim

to and recover her lawful third part of the lands of Wranghays, the provisions of the agreement should no longer be continued to her.

The frequent recurrence of a grant of land in consideration of being supplied with the necessaries of life, must not always be considered as a well meant or a superstitious resignation of worldly wealth for the soul's benefit and the advantage of a religious community; but may in many instances be accounted for by the miserable situation of the people at large at this disastrous period of English history. The grievous extortions of the pope, with the unsparing exactions of the king, and the immense sums of money lavished in foreign countries on various futile schemes of aggrandizement, had so entirely drained the kingdom, that there was no longer any circulating medium, and although there was no extraordinary scarcity of corn, the absolute want of money wherewith to purchase it, reduced the people to the greatest privations, and numbers perished of actual starvation; while the avaricious among the cultivators of land, knew but too well how to take advantage of the necessities of those who were glad to barter their small estates for regular supplies of food and clothing.

The next acquisition of property which the abbey made was the estate of Richard Stamerligh, which he and his wife Matilda conveyed to the

abbot and convent on the 6th of July, 1253, under similar circumstances to the last mentioned. This consisted of the lands called Stamerligh, with the meadow and the land called Toccucksbere, that in the marsh below Bacalar's, three acres of arable in the eastern part of Stalemore, and a perch of arable adjoining the land and croft of the abbey on the eastern side of the town. The greater part of these lands are conveyed under the provision that the abbot and convent shall pay to Richard and his wife four silver marks, shall grant to them fifteen acres of arable and one of meadow, with a yearly allowance of two pence, a bushel of wheat, and ten shillings for clothing; further that the donors shall be allowed pasture for two cows and a boar, or for three cows, with those of the abbey, and carriage of a certain quantity of fuel and turf. Among the deeds relating to this property, we find one dated in 1250, by which Richard Stamerligh grants a lease to Thomas Milebroke, of an acre of meadow land, situate next the eastern side of Stakemore, for twenty years, in consideration of four shillings paid to him. This acre of meadow was therefore rented at less than $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per annum.

William de Mohun, with whom the foundation of the abbey had originated, was still living, and his attachment to the rising monastery conti-

nued unabated. It was with the advice of this beneficent individual and his liberal assistance, that abbot Geoffry was enabled, in the year 1260, to make so important an addition to the conventual property as the manor of Norton, in the parish of Launcells, in the county of Cornwall, including the hundred and bailiwick of Stratton, within which it is situated. The early history of this manor, with some other notices respecting it will be found in a separate section at the close of this volume.

While these acquisitions had been in progress, this industrious abbot was also engaged at home in proceeding with the erection of the conventual church. The foundation of it had been commenced during the administration of his predecessor, and the first stone of the superstructure was now laid, with much ceremony, on the 13th of September, 1254, before a large number of persons who were assembled on the occasion. The abbot and the monks with the community, walked in solemn procession from the chapel to the site of the church, singing the 84th, the 87th, the 122nd, and the 127th psalms, entitled, "Quam dilecta," "Fundamenta ejus," "Lætatus sum," and "Nisi Dominus ædificaverit," and on approaching the spot, the antiphon*

* The Antiphon, *Ἀντιφωνος*, is a verse which, as its name implies, is sung alternately by two choirs or individuals.

“Felix namque,” with the verse and the “Gloria Patri” were chanted with a loud voice. The founder, Sir Reginald de Mohun, then laid the corner stone and two other stones, each signed with the cross, during which time the choir sung “Te Deum” and “Salve Regina,” “alta voce et lac’mabili.” The fourth stone was then placed by Sir William de Mohun, the brother of Sir Reginald, and the fifth by Sir Wymond de Raleigh, whilst the “Beata Dei genetrix” was chanted;* the whole in the name of the Holy Trinity, and in honour of the most blessed virgin Mary and all saints.† At the conclusion of the ceremony, the abbot, with the deacon, and subdeacon, in their appropriate vestments, and the whole convent, with bended knees, entreated Sir Reginald de Mohun to adopt the new church for the place of his burial. The founder replied that such had been his intention, and this favour was confirmed to the abbot and convent by his deed, dated at his castle of Dunster on the 29th of June, 1255. This instrument directs that unless he should die in

* The Beata Dei genetrix is the following hymn or prayer to the Virgin Mary, recited or sung by the Roman Catholic Church in the office of the Breviary.

“Beata Dei genetrix, Maria, virgo perpetua, templum Domini, sacrarium Spiritus Sancti, sola sine exemplo piacuisti Domino nostro Jesu Christo: ora pro populo, interveni pro clero, intercede pro devoto foemineo sexu.”

† Chart. fol. 25. b.

the Holy Land, his heirs or executors are to permit his body to be taken to Newenham abbey, to be honourably buried before the high altar of the church there by the abbot and monks for the time being, who are charged with the privilege of conveying his remains and performing the interment. The deed is witnessed by his brother William de Mohun, Wymond de Raleigh, Gervas de Horton sheriff of Devon, John Arundel, and Warin de Raleigh, knights, William de By'a, Reginald de Bath, Gilbert de Castello, Ralph de Monte Sorrell, Richard de Menbiry, Adam Hunte and others. It was not long after the execution of this deed that Reginald departed this life, and the circumstances which attended his decease will be found mentioned in some notices relating to the family of Mohun in a future page. His body was interred before the high altar, as were also the remains of his brother William, who died at his manor house of Norton on the 17th of September, 1265.

Another benefactor to the abbey departed this life shortly after. This was Sir Nicholas Bonville, who, prior to his decease, had granted twenty-five shillings and four pence per annum to the abbot and convent, in consideration of a daily mass for the souls of himself, his wife Amicia, and all his ancestors and descendants, to be cele-

brated by a secular priest or a monk of the house, for ever. This rent was to be paid by Adam de Chelesham, for lands held by him in Kilmington, then called Tuddesheye or Toddeheis, now Studhays, and others in Dalewood, known by the name of Blettesheyes. This deed of gift is without date, but being witnessed by Gervase de Horton sheriff of Devon, it must have been executed in 1255. The other witnesses are Reginald and William de Mohun, John and William de Courtenay, Wymond de Raleigh, and W. de Ligh, knights; W. de Ouill, H. de Wycroft, R. de Menbiry, and Adam Hunt. Sir Nicholas Bonville died at his manor of Wiscombe, on the fourth of August, 1266, and was buried before the high altar of Newenham.

Abbot Geoffry proceeded in the erection of the church with so much zeal and activity, that before the close of his government the first mass was sung therein by brother Walter de Boreham, the overseer of the buildings. The service was performed in the sacristy, on the Lord's day, being the feast of the Annunciation, and this fact proves it to have been in the year 1257.

During the administration of this abbot an exchange of lands was effected with John son of Stephen de Haccombe, lord of the manor of Haccombfee in Axminster. This appears by an instrument dated in 1257, by which the abbot and

convent convey to John a meadow with its appertinances called Tenacres, with a meadow next the rivulet called Milebrok, which divides the two, in exchange for a meadow in Slymlake, and a piece of land held by Richard Cwlard; and the parties agree that each shall keep their own fences whole and unbroken.

About this time also, as appears by the transcript of a deed in the chartulary, the abbot and convent made a grant to their free tenants in Axminster of certain messuages which extended from the lower part of the croft formerly belonging to Reginald Wag, as far as the road leading to Rembrok, to have and to hold to them, their heirs and assigns, excepting religious and Jews, free of toll in the borough of Axminster, and in all other places where the burgesses are free according to the tenor of the charter granted by king John; and further, that they should enjoy common of pasture on the manor as reasonable for so many messuages, paying to the abbot and convent, twelve pence for each tenement per annum, free of all demands, except village, "villagio," when the other free tenants are taxed, and further, that in case of any misconduct. the tenants shall be bound to appear at the hundred court, on reasonable summons by the Hayward, to account for the transgression. The deed is witnessed by Sir

Wymond de Raleigh, William de Bray, Gilbert de Castello, Henry de Wycroft, Ralph Capia, Richard Wrangle, and others.

Abbot de Blancheville, who seems to have been unwearied in promoting the interests of his house, succeeded in obtaining a papal bull granting the appropriation of the churches of Ple-nynt and Lovepit to the abbey, and another by the authority of which the abbot and convent are permitted to hear the confession of penitents and administer the sacraments of the church among their own servants. He procured also from various quarters, copies of bulls of several dates, granting and confirming various immunities and privileges to the Cistercian order of monks. These, about twenty in number, are transcribed at length in the chartulary, and their most important provisions are as follow. That they shall not be subject to excommunication, suspension, or interdict by the pope's legate; nor liable to collections, exactions, subsidies, or pecuniary procurations to him; that they shall be exempted from episcopal visitations and procurations; that abbots and priors may absolve such of their monks as had incurred excommunication for any irregularity, and that they shall not be compelled to attend any councils or synods; that they may celebrate divine service at their granges or farm houses, and that they shall

be exempt from tithes of all lands cultivated by their own hands, as well as tithes of meadows, pastures, salt-works, fisheries, mills, gardens, nurseries, hay, herbage, milk, wool, and lambs; and of pasture for cattle, as well their own stock as those of others feeding on their lands. These immunities are granted in every instance subject to the papal authority, and such persons as may impugn or attempt to pervert them, are threatened with the indignation of Almighty God and the blessed apostles St. Peter and St. Paul.

Such were some of the means by which the papal power at this unhappy period of our history, succeeded in exalting its authority above that of all civil and ecclesiastical law. With these and other such enormous privileges we need not wonder at the gradually extending influence of the monastic orders in this kingdom, nor hesitate to believe that without occasional checks and their ultimate suppression, an independent state would have grown up, threatening the very sovereignty of the crown.

Abbot Geoffry de Blancheville, having thus for ten years promoted the interests of his monastery with equal ability and success, died early in June, 1262, while absent from Newenham.

V. HUGH DE COKESWELL,* the porter of Beaulieu, was elected abbot on the 14th of June, 1262, but we are informed that he never received the episcopal benediction.† The registrar states the fact of this omission, perhaps by way of accounting for the want of any benefits accruing to his house during his jurisdiction, and the irregularity of his conduct which marked its close. Indeed the only event which is recorded respecting him is the total change of the convent, which he is said to have effected by his subtle contrivance, “*callidis machinationibus suis.*” The monks of Newenham appear to have been viewed at this period with decided disapprobation by the convent of Beaulieu, which having been the parent establishment, continued to exercise a considerable degree of authority over them; but whether the exciting causes to the proceeding which followed, were the misconduct of the suffering party, or the wantonness of power in the other, we are uninformed; for we learn merely that the change of the convent was effected by the advice and assistance of Diony-

* The manors of Great and Little Cokeswell in Berkshire, with the living, were part of the possessions of Beaulieu abbey.

† The affairs of an abbey were unsettled until the abbot had received episcopal benediction or confirmation. This ceremony took place during high mass, and was followed by that of the abbot's formal admission to his stall in the choir of his church, and then by a feast to the convent.

sus abbot of Beaulieu. This revolution was brought about in a very unceremonious manner, and seems at any rate to have been an arbitrary exercise of authority over the rights of the possessors, and to have excited corresponding indignation in the minds of those who relate it.

Abbot Hugh, according to a concerted plan, repaired from Newenham to Beaulieu, and on the 5th of July, 1265, secretly gave in the resignation of his office. On the second day after, another convent was chosen for Newenham, and the lot for the dignity of abbot, fell on John de Northampton, who, accompanied by his monks, set out immediately, and as privately as possible, for St. Leonard's, where they passed the night. The next morning they proceeded by water along the coast to Charmouth, where they landed, and marched under the banner of the cross to Newenham. Hugh, in the mean time, for greater expedition, had travelled by land, and in the guise of an authority which he had renounced, despatched the whole of the unsuspecting monks from home, on various errands of business for the house, so that the new colony on their arrival met with no opposition to their taking quiet possession. Proceeding immediately to the church in procession, the "Te Deum" was sung for the success of their crafty enterprize, the new abbot was placed in the

stall assigned to him with the usual ceremonies, and the seals of the house were delivered to him in due form.* We may imagine the dismay of the unfortunate monks thus ejected from their habitation, for they were obliged, some to repair to other religious houses for charitable relief, and others to resort to secular employments for subsistence, for, as the registrar remarks, not a single individual among them, “q’d dolus est dic’e” was allowed to re-enter his former abode. This, it is also observed, was not a change effected by the right hand of the Most High, but a fraudulent device of the devil. The holy father of Beaulieu seems to have dispossessed his religious brethren with less compunction than the commissioners of the crown at a subsequent period, for it does not appear that these sufferers were allowed any pension from the revenues of the house. We have no account of what became of abbot Hugh, nor so far as we are informed was any opposition set on foot to the quiet possession of his successor with the new convent.

VI. JOHN DE NORTHAMPTON, one of the monks of Beaulieu, was “custos” of the manor of Faringdon in Berkshire, which formed part of the demesne lands of his monastery. He was elected

* Register in the library of the British Museum, fol. 52.

abbot of Newenham, as we have stated, on the 7th of July, 1265, with the new convent whose names were as follow: Richard de Chichester, Thomas Godard, Thomas Beere, Richard de Hanton, Walter de Faringdon, Adam de Chichester, Robert de Aysford, John de Leominster, William de Wobourne, John de Hildeslegh, and Robert de Alreton.

The new Abbot, who bore the character of an honourable man, and who was the particular friend of Bronescombe bishop of Exeter, exerted himself to promote the interests of his house, which he did in the first place by adding to its property some lands called Hoddesclive, with the corn mill there. These were part of the estate now called Yarty, in the parish of Membury, and had been appertenances to the manor of Axminster from the earliest period; but having been alienated from it since the conquest, were now again united to it. Among the transcripts of deeds relating to the property, is one of as early a date as 1208, being an agreement or decision in the manor court of Axminster before Philip de Hanecothe the seneschal, and many others, by which it was determined that William de Yerty held the vill of Hoddesclive of Gervas son of Snelwinus, at the rent of forty-five shillings sterling and a cart load of hay "vna' careatam feni," per annum. By other deeds Hillary

Borde for the health of his own soul, and those of Matilda his wife, Gervas his father, Olive his mother, Philip his brother, and all his ancestors and descendants, bestows the said tenement and the mill of Hoddesclive on the abbot and convent for ever, receiving as a consideration the sum of twelve marks sterling. William de la Water on the like motives bestows on them a water-course, running through his lands, with liberty of ingress and egress, at the annual rent of sixpence, and permission to grind his corn at the mill. The abbot and convent afterwards, by a deed of the 1st of February, 1299, let the mill to William de Yerty and Agnes his wife, in exchange for certain lands, and the rent of six shillings and two pence to themselves, and six pence for the water-course ; and by another deed William de Yerty bestows on the abbot and convent an acre and three virgates of meadow, in remission of the annual load of hay, payable to them from Hoddesclive.

This abbot also effected an exchange of lands with John son of Stephen de Haccombe, lord of the manor of Haccombfee in this parish. The lands called Bacalar's, belonging to the latter, were consigned to the abbey in lieu of seventeen acres and a half of arable, of which three and a half lay at the cross roads between Axminster and Cleyhull on each side of the king's highway, and the

remainder in small detached portions. It is agreed that John shall enjoy his estovers,* called fualls, husbote, heybote, and faldbote, as before, with common of pasture on the manor, on payment of five shillings per annum; that the abbot and convent shall have and hold in peace the pond, "bedum,"† belonging to their mill at Axminster as heretofore; but that if the water coming from the mill should do injury to John's meadow called Coggersham, a reasonable compensation shall be made to him.

About this time the right which the abbot and convent as lords of the hundred claimed to suit of court from the tything of Combe-Coffyn was disputed by Richard Coffyn, the lord of that manor, now called Combraleigh. The question was brought to issue by a formal investigation, which decided against him, and a deed appears in the

* Estovers were the privilege of receiving supplies from the lord's woods for various purposes. These comprised Fualls or dry wood for firing, Husbote the right of wood for repairs of the dwelling house, Haybote, Heibote, or Hedgbote the right of wood for making and repairing fences, and Faldbote the right of stuff for fold hurdles. The claim of fualls may be traced in the practice which the poor continue to the present day, and for which they almost claim a prescriptive right, of gathering dry wood in copses and hedges, for firing.

† "Bedum seu Palitium molendini, palorum scilicet series quæ ad continendum aquam quo validius rotam torqueat, solet supra molendinum infigi."—Du Cange. Perhaps this might be more correctly rendered, the trunk or shoot which conveys the water from the mill-pond immediately onto the wheel.

chartulary, dated at Exeter on the 24th of January, 1269, by which he acknowledges the liability for himself and his heirs for ever. In return for this concession the abbot and convent remit to him all the arrears due up to that time; but the amount of the annual payment is not stated.*

Abbot John, with the encouragement and assistance of his friend the bishop of Exeter, made considerable progress in building the conventual church. On the 7th of July, 1270, the feast of the translation of St. Thomas (Becket) the martyr, three altars on the north side, dedicated respectively to St. Gabriel and all archangels, St. Thomas and all holy martyrs, and St. Katherine and all virgins, were consecrated by Bishop Bronescombe. This prelate had been at the expense of their erection, and had contributed upwards of six hundred marks towards the building, besides many other valuable gifts, “*et multa alia bona innum’abilia id’em ep’us fecit.*”† This abbot resigned his dignity on the 11th of September, 1272.

VII. WILLIAM DE CORNUBIA, prior of Beau-
lieu, was elected abbot on the day after the resig-
nation of his predecessor, and during his adminis-

* Chart. fol. 49.

† Chart. fol. 5, Regist. fol. 52. Copies of verses in praise of bishops Bronescombe and Stapledon, taken from the chartulary, will be found in the Appendix, No. III.

tration the building of the church proceeded with spirit under the continued auspices of bishop Bronescombe. The choir was completed, so that the high altar, dedicated to the Holy Trinity and St. Mary; with three altars on the south side of the church, dedicated to St. John and all the apostles and prophets, St. Anne the mother of Mary and all widows, and St. Nicholas and all saints and confessors; which like the former were the gift of the bishop, were consecrated by him on the 16th of October, 1277.* The whole building was in all probability completed within a few years of this time, for in the month of April, 1279, a new agreement for a supply of stone was entered into with William the son of Sir William de Staunton, knight. By this contract the said William, in consideration of the sum of seven marks sterling, grants to the abbot and convent a certain portion of his quarry, sixteen perches in length and eight perches in breadth, adjoining that belonging to the abbey of Ford.†

* Chart. fol. 119, Reg. fol. 52.

† The subscribing witnesses to this deed are Henr' de Aulton, Andrew rector of the church of Staunton, Roger de Staunton brother of William, Roger de la Breche, Hugh prior of Newenham, Brother Roger de Muchelny, and Master John Puleburg the builder "Cementarius." This quarry is believed to have been at White-Staunton in Somersetshire, about nine miles from Newenham, where the family of "De Staunton" were owners of lands during the twelfth and two following centuries.—See Collinson's Somerset, iii. 127.

During the administration of abbot William, the lands called Stedeheghs were added to the conventual estates. Ralph Stede for the sake of his own soul and those of his kindred, and a participation in the benefits of the prayers, alms, and good deeds done in the abbey for ever, grants to the abbot and convent in frank almoigne, all the Moor lying between Stonyway and Muleland, on one side, and the water called Millebrok, and Sutheriste on the other. His son and heir Thomas Stede, or de Stedehey, conveys to the abbot and convent by several deeds, the whole of his property whatsoever in Axminster, consisting of a croft called Rystecroft, all the lands north of Stonyway, the bounds of which are particularly described, including the coppice called Syghre, or Syther, now Secktor, with the turbary there, together with all his lands at Witehulle, and the lands and coppice at Rudeth under Voxenhole. The considerations for which these lands were given to the abbey are interesting, as they illustrate the manners of the period, and the nature of the transactions by which the possessions of monasteries were enlarged; while the numerous corrodis, or demands upon them for the necessaries of life, gave employment to their mills, manufactories, and large establishments of servants, and induced them to practice an extensive and profitable cul-

tivation of the soil. A corn mill, a fulling mill, and a tan yard, were in the occupation of this abbey, with a large extent of land divided into four granges or farms, so that almost every article of food and clothing was grown or manufactured upon their demesne, for their own use or for sale.

The abbot and convent agree to provide Thomas Stede, and his son of the same name, a house and curtilage in the town of Axminster, for the term of their lives, and to keep it in repair, except in the case of wilful damage or destruction, and further to supply them every week with seven loaves of conventual bread, seven loaves of clere-matyn,* and seven loaves of household bread, according to the weight at Beaulieu; as also five gallons of conventual ale and five of second ale, to be furnished by two equal portions weekly, viz. on the Lord's day and on Thursday, and further that they shall receive from the cellarer of Newenham the sum of sixteen shillings yearly by four equal quarterly payments. On the death of either of the parties a moiety only of the food and drink is to be furnished to the survivor. The parties and the survivor of them are further to receive annually at Christmas, a quarter of oats, a truss of

* Search has been fruitless for the derivation or the precise meaning of this word.

forage, and a cart load of litter, “vna’ carrettat’ busch’.” They are also to receive from the commons of Axminster, in like manner as their neighbours, turf and fuel sufficient for their fire, but not to sell or otherwise dispose of, and any transgression on this head is to be answered for at the manor court; and lastly they shall be allowed to keep three cows and a boar on the common lands, with a sow and her pigs until the latter are two years old. This agreement is dated on the feast of St. Hillary, (13th of January,) 1279. Thomas de Stede had conveyed a messuage with an acre of land, within the manor of Axminster, to the prior and brethren of the hospital of St. John at Jerusalem, and these religious by a deed dated on the 18th of June, 1281, convey it again to the abbot and convent of Newenham for the annual payment of ten shillings and eight pence for ever. This instrument was executed “ap’d london in domo fontis cl’icor’* in crastino s’c’i Botulphi abb’is.”

About this time it seems that a dispute had arisen between the abbot and convent of Newenham and Henry de Wycroft, respecting the boundaries of the lands of Stedhays which adjoined those of the latter, and an agreement appears in the chartulary by which their limits are accurately defined.

* Clerkenwell.

By a remission to the abbot and convent of a tenement in the town of Axminster, the property of Walter Tolle and Alice his wife, which the latter had recovered in a court of law from Robert "Mercator," it appears that their manor courts were held on the Lord's day.

In the same year, viz. 1286, an agreement was concluded, also on the Lord's day, between the abbot and convent and Richard de Stamerlegh, by which the latter gives up a tenement with a curtilage and garden in Axminster, and about twelve acres of land, together with the corn, fuel, and turf, which he had been accustomed to receive, on condition that the convent should supply him daily for life with one "clermatyn" loaf and one "boscum" loaf of bread, and a measure of mixed ale such as their household receive; it is further provided that if the said Richard should wish to undertake the office of a servant in the house, he shall receive annually a suit of clothes or a blanket, "warmamentu'," two linen sheets, "i par' linea tele," and two pairs of shoes, for his wages; that his wife Mirabel shall dwell with their daughter Edith and her husband Peter Dynell, who shall be allowed an abatement of six-pence a year from his rent on account of her lodging; and finally, that as the said Peter must enlarge his house to accommodate the said Mirabel, the abbot and convent

agree to supply him with a couple of posts or beams “vnu’ par’ furcar’,” for that purpose. This instrument is said to be alternately signed and sealed by the parties, and it may be here observed that with few exceptions throughout the chartulary, the deeds of the humblest persons are stated to be verified by their seals.

In the year 1286, the abbot and convent, by the result of an arbitration, “de mediantibz discretis viris sedata est ip’a co’t’e’cio,” obtained an acknowledgment from Ralph de Donne, that suit was due to the hundred of Axminster from his lands of Wyke in that tything. A number of persons, resident in the neighbourhood, were summoned to Exeter on the occasion, and a deed which was executed there, contained the feudal provisions by which the said Ralph bound himself and his heirs.*

It was during the abbacy of William de Cornubia, that the right of presentation to the vicarage of Axminster, which he had illegally exercised, was recovered by the crown, and again surreptitiously obtained by the abbot; but it was

* This instrument which bore date on the 31st of October, 1286, was witnessed by Sir H. de Ralegh, Sir Hugh de Pruz, Sir Andrew de Trelöse, and Sir John de Asselegh, knights, Master John de Bridport vicar of Axminster, W. de la Vge’, R. de Uppaheie, Adam de la Gate, Wiliam Rusel, John de Carswill, and others.

held only until the time of his successor, when the advowson was restored to its rightful owners.*

In the time of this abbot's administration also, it was, that a grant of lands in Dorsetshire was made to the community by one Adam Boce. This grant gave rise to much litigation, and is deserving of notice, although the abbot and convent were defeated in their endeavours to retain possession of the property. Not the slightest reference to this transaction appears throughout the conventual chartulary, but the following particulars are gained from the register of this monastery. In that volume† appears the transcript of a deed, dated on the 8th of April, 1276, by which Adam Boce, of Druke, clerk, for his soul's health, and for the souls of his father and mother, and of all the faithful dead, gives, grants, quitclaims, and confirms, for himself and his heirs for ever, to God, the blessed Mary of Newenham, and the abbot and monks there, in frank almoigne, his whole tenements of Bremelham, Mortesthorne, Waddechete, and Senebergh, with all their appertenances.‡ We have no means of judging either

* See the History of Axminster Church, pp. 13-19.

† Fol. 26.

‡ This instrument is dated at Bremelham, and witnessed by Sirs Ralph Daubenay, and Hugh de Ralegh, knights, Ralph de Rocheforde, Nicholas le Frye, Elias Golde, Stephen Gaypen, and John his son, William Peytevyn, William de Dybrywurche, William de Ophaye, Ralph de Ophaye, Robert Mamel, William le Gardener and others.

of the extent or the value of this grant, but the abbot and convent agreed at the same time to bestow upon the donor such a list of benefits for life as proves that it was no inconsiderable gift which they had obtained. The document which sets them forth, while it affords an interesting view of the domestic economy of the monastery, shews that the donor in settling the terms of the contract was not indifferent to the security of an ample provision for his bodily necessities. By a deed, which is stated to be signed and sealed by the parties in duplicate, the abbot and convent give to their well beloved and faithful Adam Boce, the house which was first built within the boundaries of their court, with access to it from the adjoining dwellings, for his habitation whenever he shall think proper during the term of his life. That he shall have free access to the garden whenever he pleases ; that when the fruit is ripe he shall have full permission to eat of it, and if he wishes to lay up any of it in store, he may do so under the inspection of the gardener. That he shall receive daily for life two loaves of conventual bread of the weight at Beaulieu, and one loaf of visitor's bread, "unum panem hospitum," with ale, pittance,* and

* The pittance was an extra allowance of meat or drink on certain occasions.

pottage, as much as two monks receive daily, this last in case he does not dress his meal at his own house; but if he chooses to cook his pottage at home, he shall receive a sufficiency of gruel from the sub-cellarer, and of peas or beans from the keeper of the granary. From the keeper of the curtillage he may demand oil or fat, as times will allow, without denial, and if it shall happen that he is absent for a time, he shall receive all arrears on his return without delay. He is further to be allowed a sufficient quantity of fuel and turves to be carried for him to his house. Six of his oxen are to be allowed to feed with the convent's stock in the abbey pastures, to be fattened for his larder, "ad impinguenda' ad lardar' suu'," and his two pigs are to be fed in common with theirs throughout the year. The convent shoemaker is to supply him with a pair of well closed boots, "unu' par' botar' fulctar'," yearly at Michaelmas, and at the same time he is to receive a piece of wax to make his candles. During his life his two boys are to be allowed bread, ale, and pittance, in like manner with the boys in the abbey, and finally his two horses are to be kept in hay, grass, and provender, in common with those of the abbot. Whether this provision for Adam Boce was considered unequitable when compared with the extent of the property bestowed on the abbey, or what were the circum-

stances under which such a grant was made, we are unable to state, but it is clear that the transaction was not satisfactory to every member of the convent; one of them at least appears to have been touched with compunction, and to have honestly recorded his conviction by the following intimation which appears in a different hand writing underneath the entry of the deeds in the register book, "Quod nostr' factu' no' est recte nolo silen'."

The bargain being however concluded, the abbot and convent took possession of the estates, but long time had not elapsed before Adam repented of what he had done, and, as we are briefly told, ejected the new owners from all the tenements. Shortly after this his death ensued, upon which William and Stephen de Mortesthorne, Richard de Nyweham, and Thomas Cabus were placed in possession by the abbot and convent. Walter Dupe son of Hugh, the nephew of Adam Boce, now brought his action before the justices itinerant for the county of Dorset, for the recovery of the estates, and a tedious course of proceedings at law followed. In the year 1283 we find a writ directed to the Sheriff of Dorset requiring him to summon eighteen persons before the judges at Shrewsbury in Michaelmas term, as jurors in the cause between the abbot of Newenham, and John Auger', tenant of a messuage and two carrucates of land with

their appertenances, in Bremelham.* But this trial did not decide the question; the cause was removed to the court at Westminster, and, after being deferred till Trinity term in the 13th. Edward I., (1285) was then brought to issue, and decided against the abbot and convent. From this time we hear no further of the matter until the abacy of John de Geytyngton, forty years afterwards, when a final, and as it seems a fruitless, attempt was made to regain possession of these estates.

Abbot de Cornubia, after ten years as we have seen, of unremitting determination to enlarge the wealth of his monastery, being advanced in life, became blind and feeble, and retired to Beaulieu, where, in the autumn of 1288 he abdicated his dignity, and is said to have died shortly after in a good old age.

VIII. RICHARD DE CHICHESTER, one of the monks of Beaulieu, was created abbot on the 13th of September following. Nothing is recorded to the honor of this superior, who is reported to have

* The names of the jurors thus summoned were William de Lymbur', Nicholas de Cotele, Nicholas de Risheg', Walter de Pillesdon, Giles de Pomeray, William de Langedon, Adam de Cautevile, Henry de Porcon, John de Hornebog, Robert de la Forde, Richard de Bosco, Richard Payn, Philip de la Herne, John de la Strode, Adam Chenne, William Peytevyne, Richard le Walys, and William de Tydderlegh.

been a sensual and irreligious man. Five years after his accession he was compelled to resign the right of presentation to the living of Axminster into the hands of the crown, and having destroyed the royal grant which his predecessor had illegally obtained, and confirmed the advowson to its rightful owners the prebendaries of York, those dignitaries, in consideration of his ample concession, paid him the sum of two hundred marks.* This money, the abbot, instead of appropriating to the use of his convent, is stated to have quickly dissipated in riotous living; and it must have been rapidly disposed of, for taking Beaulieu on his way home from London a few months after the transaction, the delinquent abbot received an immediate summons to appear before the chapter there, to account for his transgressions. The result of the investigation was that the seals of his office were taken from him, and he was deposed from his station. This took place on the 15th of October, 1293, and such had been the extravagance of his career that he left his monastery encumbered with a debt amounting to no less than £282. 0s. 5¼d.

IX. RICHARD DE PEDIRTON OR PETHERTON, succeeded. He was sub-cellarer of Beaulieu,

* See the History of Axminster Church where the proceedings are related at length.

and was elected on the 11th of November after the deprivation of his predecessor.

This abbot acquired two acres and a half of arable land in Axminster field, on the western side of the town adjoining Long mead, from Henry de la Lane, as appears by the deed of the latter, dated on the Lord's day next after the feast of St. Ambrose, (the 7th of December) 1296; and about this time the same Henry, with his father and mother Gilbert and Mary, bestowed upon the abbey in frank almoigne, a meadow south of Clocombe, adjoining the lands of William de Uphay, and those of Membury. Henry de la Donne also bestowed a piece of land between the Membury meadows and Rembrock; and Ralph Daw formerly a husbandman of Newenham, "q'nda' messor de N.," gave up to the abbot and convent a burgage which he held of them.

We have no further record of this superior's administration, except that by his judicious management he succeeded in liquidating the whole of the debt incurred by his predecessor, without any alienation of lands or goods, or any burdensome corrodies, "sine distractione mobiliu' et t'r' ac on'osis corrodiis.*" Having rendered this important service

* Corrodies were periodical supplies of food and drink, payable to individuals in return for lands or benefits bestowed upon the convent; of these we have recorded several examples.

to his monastery, he resigned his dignity on the 13th of April, 1297.

X. WILLIAM DE FRIA OR FRY who had been for many years abbot of the neighbouring monastery of Ford, was elected to that honour at Newenham, on the day after Richard's retirement, and his government was marked by its peaceful character and avoidance of all expensive litigation. During his administration we find a tenement in Axminster disposed of by the abbot and convent to William le Gernetur and Isabel his wife, for the sum of two marks and a half sterling, at the annual rent of three shillings, suit of court twice in the year, and a tallage when demanded.* The abbot and convent also granted a house newly built upon the castle, in the town of Axminster, and adjoining "domui placitor'" on the southern side, to Peter de Childeheye, the miller, at the annual rent of three shillings, suit of court twice in the year, and a tallage when the king shall demand the same of his burgesses; the tenant is to be allowed common of pasture upon the manor, and a supply of turf in like manner with the burgesses of the town.

* Tallage was a rigorous and irregular tax upon demesne lands and towns; sometimes it was assessed in gross upon a town and collected by the burgesses, sometimes individually, but the barons and lords were latterly forced to ask permission of the king before they set a tallage on their tenants, which was commonly done when he imposed one on his own.

About this time the abbot and convent granted a burgage with its appertenances in the town of Axminster, to Roger Diggesfysch, Engelese his wife and their heirs for ever, for their suit and service and the annual rent of twelve pence, with an additional sum of four pence a year by way of heriot, to increase the said rent,* the tenants doing suit at the manor court of Axminster, “ad duas lawedayes” in each year.

This abbot also effected several exchanges of land; one on the 21st of September 1301, with Robert de Uphay, of some fields near Clocombe, the boundaries of which are accurately defined, for others adjoining Frendlesmede, Redmede and Batcombe; and another with William de Uphay, of two acres and a half of arable at Clocombe, for the same quantity on the western side of Weford bridge; a third also with William de la Wile, of lands near Clocombe, for a meadow between Redmede and the river Axe. Six acres of land adjoining Rembrock, were about this period obtained from William Popa, and from his son a tenement in Axminster, which Luke Forester had held.

The chartulary presents us with a deed dated

* By the term heriot is generally understood the best beast in the possession of a tenant at his death, due by custom to the lord; but this is an instance of the heriot-service mentioned by Blackstone. Comm. b. II. c. xxviii.

in the year 1300, which marks the residence in Axminster of a female devotee called an anchoress or recluse. By it, Nicholas Page, citizen of Exeter,* grants to Oliver de la Spynee, all his tenement with its appertenances adjoining the church yard of Axminster, which a certain recluse had held under the abbot and convent. By a subsequent deed, we find that Oliver, who was a priest, conveyed this tenement, which is described as on the south side of the church,† to one Henry, a weaver, "tapetarius," and he to the abbot and convent for the sum of ten shillings sterling. Henry states that on account of his seal not being well known, he had for greater security, procured the seal of the dean of Honiton to be affixed to the deed. A recluse was a female anchoret, who, with the bishop's license, was shut into a cell, sometimes secured with a leaden seal, from which she was never to depart, and where she professed to lead a life of holiness and devotion, being supported by the charity of her neighbours. The regulations

* Nicholas Paige was one of the bailiffs of the city of Exeter in the years 1298 and 1299. Jenkins, 55.

† This "anchor-hold, anchorage, or anchor-house," was near the south-west corner of the church-yard, at the top of the hill yet called Anchor-hill, and probably on the spot where a few years since, on digging for the foundation of a house, a human skeleton was found without any remains of a coffin. The anchoret or anchoress dying in a cell was usually buried beneath it.

which were found needful for these devotees prove that their dwellings were not always the abodes of sanctity.

Abbot de Fria laid aside his jurisdiction on the 3rd of February, 1303. He died shortly afterwards at Newenham, but was buried at Ford, of which house he had been a beneficent superior. His appointment to the abbacy of Newenham seems to have been for some particular purpose with which we are not acquainted, for immediately on his retirement his predecessor was again elected abbot.

XI. RICHARD DE PEDIRTON resumed the duties of his station on the 4th of February, 1303, but died when returning from a general chapter of his order on the 5th of November in the following year, and was buried at Waverley. It is incidentally mentioned both in the register and the chartulary that in the time of this abbot's administration the king's justices in eyre first took their journey into Cornwall.*

* It is elsewhere noted in the chartulary that the king's justices in eyre "*justicii de heyr' itinerantes*" first sat at Exeter on the 7th kal. Nov. (26th of October) 1256: but the received opinion is that these judges first took their circuits in the year 1176; it seems therefore probable that the registrar ought to have styled them the justices of assize, who were instituted about this period, prior to which the circuits of the justices in eyre had been perhaps for some time discontinued. The names

XII. RALPH DE SHAPWICK, prior of the convent, was created abbot of Newenham on the 6th of December 1304. He was a native of Somersetshire, and is said to have been a good and religious man. In the year 1308, he acquired for his monastery the lands called Cuthays. By one deed Aylof de Cotheie, in consideration of the sum of four marks and a half sterling, gives up for the use of the tannery, "tannaria," of the abbey, his right and title to a meadow below Milebroke, which he holds of them, and by another deed, Richard his son bestows upon them fourteen acres of arable, three acres of meadow, and all his right and title to the lands which his father held at Coteheie adjoining Beavor in the manor of Axminster. Of the fourteen acres of arable, seven lay at Muylynche adjoining the south side of the town, and seven at Waledon on the western side; the three acres of meadow were at Milebroke. Abbot Ralph also purchased of Constance Malyn a tenement in the town of Axminster which she held under the manor, at the sum of five marks sterling, and Constance states at the foot of the deed, that not having a seal of her own, she had affixed that

of the justices mentioned in the chartulary as sitting in Exeter in 1256, are Gilbert de Preston, Roger de Wircester, William Englesent, and William de Goboham. Of these, the last two are not mentioned in the "Chronica Juridicialia."

of John Carswill; Richard le Schynner, who had a claim on the premises, renounces it for forty shillings.

About this time Henry Gobaud of Wycroft, for the soul's sake of himself, his ancestors, and descendants, granted to the abbot and convent all that his meadow lying on each side of the river Axe, in frank almoigne.

It appears that during this abbot's jurisdiction the convent were engaged in litigious proceedings with several individuals. Those with one Richard Tredford of Plenynt, will be noticed in a subsequent page. In the year 1312, Richard le Tayllour and Joan his wife brought an action against the abbot and convent for having dispossessed them of their common of pasture on thirty acres of land called Langmore and Kyngside, belonging to their free tenement within the manor of Wycroft in the parish of Axminster. The king's writ dated at Woodstock on the 7th of May, to the sheriff of Devon, directs him to summon the plaintiffs, with the abbot, and Roger de Belver one of the monks, as also Robert de Glastonbury, and John "le Messor" (or husbandman) of Bevor, their agents; together with a jury of twelve free and lawful men, before John de Foxle, John de Batesforde, and others, the judges of assize for the county of Devon. The parties appeared accordingly at Exeter, and

the trial took place on the 14th of August, 1312. The abbot's defence was that he was lord of the soil on which the plaintiffs claimed a right, and that it formed a part of the ancient royal demesne. But it was proved in reply that Wycroft had not been part of that demesne. The jury accordingly found for the plaintiffs; and adjudged the abbot and convent to pay them sixteen shillings and eightpence for damages. The registrar who records the circumstance seems indignant at the decision, and asserts that it may be invalidated in various ways: he states also that notwithstanding diligent search had been made, no record of it could be found in the court "*quia falsimode lucrata fuit et nimis stolide.*" It is certain that the manor of Wycroft never formed part of the royal demesne and was totally distinct from that of Axminster.

The abbot laid claim also to the assize of bread and ale, and the right of a tumbril or ducking stool at Kilmington, and the matter was brought to trial by William Martyn, who had inherited a moiety of the manor there. It was decided against the abbot and convent who had clearly no right to it.*

Abbot de Shapwick made an addition to the

* By Inquis. post mortem 19 Edw. II., in Bibl. Harl. no. 6126, p. 2, fol. 32, the assize of bread and ale in Kilmington, returning 2s 5d a year, appears to have been the property of William Martyn.

conventual buildings, viz. one portion or division "panellum" of that side of the cloisters extending from the church door to the door of the kitchen. He resigned his office at Beaulieu on the 13th of August, 1314, but returned to Newenham, where he died, and was buried before the church door, in that part of the cloister which he had erected.

XIII. ROBERT DE PUPPLISBURY, a native of Somersetshire, and cellarer of Beaulieu, was elevated to the dignity of abbot, on the 30th of September, 1314, but his solemn benediction by bishop Stapeldon was delayed until the 15th of the ensuing January, when it was conferred in the parish church of Axminster.* The period of this abbot's administration is memorable for the dreadful famine and pestilence which raged throughout the country. The bushel of wheat sold for 3s. 4d. and even 4s., a quarter of beans for 24s., and a bushel of coarse salt was valued at 4s. 8d. The horrors of the famine were inconceivable, and the mortality, especially among the poor, was most extensive. A pestilence raged also for several

* Bishop Stapeldon's register in Exeter Cathedral. For many notes from the episcopal registers and other communications the writer is indebted to the Rev. G. Oliver, of Exeter, whose extensive acquaintance with the Ecclesiastical Antiquities of this diocese is equalled by his kindness and liberality in imparting information.

years among the beasts, but particularly among the horned cattle, of which at least 164 died on the abbey farms. It is observed as to the mode in which the distemper attacked the cattle, that, while standing or walking, they were suddenly overcome with most acute and distressing pain, and falling down expired instantaneously. The public miseries were greatly aggravated by the unrelenting civil war carried on at the same time between the king and the barons.

On the 12th of May 1321, this abbot resigned his authority at Newenham, and retired to Beaulieu where he died.

XIV. JOHN DE COKISWILLE, the prior of Beaulieu, succeeded, being appointed to the abbacy on the day after the resignation of Robert, and received the benediction of Bishop Stapeldon at Chudleigh on the 2nd of February following. He is represented to have been a wise and prudent man, for he contrived by good management to extricate his house from the pecuniary difficulties under which he found it labouring at his accession.

About this time Henry de la Lane bestowed an acre of land in Woodbury field, to be annexed to the office of porter to the abbey, with the proviso that if any future abbot should alienate it from the said office, it should revert to him or his heirs.

John de Eginton also gave to the abbot and convent two closes of land, consisting of about two acres, which adjoined the road leading from Axminster to Stedhays, for the better support of their fulling mill at Bacalar's, and John the son of John de Mylebrok remitted all right and claim to a tenement which he held of the abbot and convent, and which seems by the copy of a conveyance from Nicholas Hillary, "capellanus," to have been a croft on the eastern side of the town.

William de Cadecote, a priest who died at Newenham and was buried in the conventual cemetery, bequeathed a moiety of his personal property to the abbey. The receipt of the abbot and convent, dated from the chapter house on the Sunday next before the feast of St. Lawrence, (7th of August) 1323, to Philip de Okebeare and Adam Young the executors of the will of the deceased, is in existence, but the common seal annexed to it is almost entirely destroyed. This William de Cadecote had been presented some years before by abbot Ralph to the vicarage of Plenynt in Cornwall, but had resigned the living.

Abbot John de Cokiswille died on the 26th of December, 1324, after a long and severe illness, and was buried in front of the chapter house.

XV. JOHN DE GEYTYNGTON, a native of

Northamptonshire, was the next abbot. Prior to his embracing monastic life he had been archdeacon of Lewes and canon of Chichester cathedral. From the office of porter at Beaulieu, he was elevated to the superintendency of the abbey of Newenham, on the feast of St. Peter's chair,* (the 18th of January) 1325, and received the "munus benedictionis" from bishop Stapeldon, in his chapel at Temple bar in London, on the 17th of March following.†

* "In festo cathedræ sancti Petri." The festival called "St. Peter in cathedrâ," or "the chayring of St. Peter," was founded upon a legend of St. Peter's being seated in a chair, as bishop, at Antioch, when a light appeared and many sick were healed; or from Theophilus, the governor of Antioch, making a church in his palace, and setting up a chair on high for St. Peter. See Encyc. Antiq. 700. That festival was held on the 22nd of February, but the anniversary here mentioned appears from the following extract to refer to a different celebration. "Till the year 1662, the bishops of Rome thought they had a pregnant proof, not only of St. Peter's erecting their chair but of his sitting in it himself; for till that year, the very chair, on which they believed, or would make others believe, he, St. Peter, had sat, was shown and exposed to public adoration, on the 18th of January, the festival of the said chair. But while it was cleaning, in order to be set up in some conspicuous place in the Vatican, the twelve labours of Hercules, unluckily, appeared to be engraved on it." "Our worship however" says Giacomo Bartolini, who was present at this discovery and relates it, "was not misplaced; since it was not to the wood we paid it, but to the prince of Apostles St. Peter." Bower's History of the Popes. i. 7.

† The following is an extract from Bishop Stapeldon's Register; fol. 184. "London, xvii. die Marci, A. D. MCCCXXIV. Dominus in capellâ suâ extra Temple Barr, benedixit Johannem Abbatem Monasterii de Niwenham nostre Exoniensis Diocesis, qui profitebatur in hæc verba."

"Ego Johannes Abbas de Niwenham, subjectionem et

During this abbot's government the revenues of the house were considerably increased. In the year 1330 possession was obtained by the death of William Tudde, of the lands called Tuddesheie, or Studhays in Kilmington, and Bletteshays in Dalwood, the reversion of which had been acquired in the year 1248, and upon which a rent charge had been given by Nicholas de Bonville at his death in 1266.*

The next addition to the conventual property was a part of Shapwick, obtained by the gift of Alice de Tynten, which, being added to the lands in the same place acquired during the abbacy of Henry de Persholte, completed the estate called the manor or grange of Shapwick, which the convent retained in their own cultivation. The particulars relating to the several gifts and purchases of this property will be found in a separate section of this volume.

In the year 1333, the abbot obtained for his convent some houses situated near Westgate, adjoining a place called Crackenpitte within the city of

reverentiam et obedientiam a sanctis patribus constituta, secundum regulam Sancti Benedicti, tibi, Domine Pater, Episcopo, tuisque successoribus canonicè instituendis et sancte sedi Exoniensi, salvo ordine nostro, perpetuò me exhibiturum promitto."

* "Escaet. 4 Edw. III. no. 90. Will'us Tudde pro abbate et conventu de Nyweham, Kilmyngton et Bletteshegges 60 acr' terr', et 9s 4d reddit'." Calend. Inquis. p. m. ii. 36.

Exeter. These were given by David Anselm, chantor of Crediton, on Wednesday before the feast of St. Agatha the virgin, the 5th of February, and possession of them was taken at the same time.

Abbot de Geytyngton appears to have been an industrious superintendant of his house, for in addition to the benefits already stated to have been acquired during his administration, he obtained the king's license to purchase lands or rents of ten pounds value, which in consequence of the statutes of mortmain, could not lawfully be done without that permission.* He also obtained confirmatory charters of the various grants which had been made to the abbey. This was a measure of precaution in the then existing state of public affairs, for the registrar states that they were procured on account

* Purchases in mortmain were so called from their being usually made by ecclesiastical bodies, the members of which, being professed, were considered dead persons in law. A licence from the crown was necessary to the purchase of lands in mortmain, even before the Norman conquest, but, after that period, such were the influence and ingenuity of the monks, that they formed contrivances for evading the necessity of obtaining licences, and very considerable acquisitions of landed property by religious houses took place. After a time it was found that the feudal services ordained for the defence of the kingdom were visibly withdrawn, and that the lords were curtailed of the fruits of their escheats, wardships, reliefs, &c. Several statutes were accordingly enacted to rectify the evil, but by the 27th. Edw. I. stat. 2, a method of obtaining the king's license by a writ of "ad quod damnum" was pointed out. The statutes of mortmain were suspended by the 1st and 2nd of Philip and Mary, cap. 8, but these salutary provisions, with various limitations and exceptions, are in force at the present day.

of the war which had broken out between the kings of England and France, and the uncertainty of its termination; so that if the original deeds should be abstracted from the rolls in chancery, copies of them would be found here.*

The abbot seems also to have endeavoured to advance the interests of his convent where there was but little prospect of success, for on a vacancy in the living of Axminster, he proceeded, notwithstanding the decision respecting the advowson under the government of his predecessors abbots De Cornubia and De Chichester, to present one Adam de Tetteburne, the rector of Combpyne, to the vicarage; his pretensions were, however, speedily set aside by the prebendaries in the church of York, to whom the right of presentation belonged. He also brought a writ "de ingressu,"† against John de Melleplas, for recovering the lands of Bremelham, an attempt which had been made in vain during the abbacy of William de Cornubia. In this

* For a transcript of one of the deeds obtained at this period, see the Appendix, No. IV. The numerous confirmatory Charters which are found to have been obtained by all the religious establishments of the realm, must have been a source of considerable revenue to the crown. The costs of obtaining such deeds by this abbot and his successor, appears by the chartulary to have amounted to no less a sum than £14 6s 4d.

† The writ of Entry is a possessory remedy, which disproves the title of the tenant or possessor, by showing the unlawful means by which he entered or continues possession.

instance also he was defeated, and we hear no further mention of the claim.

This abbot made several useful additions to the buildings of his monastery. With the advice and assistance of Stapeldon bishop of Exeter, who was a liberal friend to the community, he added three arches or divisions to the cloisters, in that part extending from the church door southwards to the door of the kitchen, and another against the lavatory and infirmary; he also commenced the erection of a new refectory, and built a vaulted roof to the kitchen,* an oven, and a furnace. Neither did he neglect the buildings on the conventual estates, for he erected new farm houses at Bevor and Brewesheghes, with dove houses at the latter place and Furzlegh. The farm house or grange at Bevor was built in 1333, and the cost of its erection was defrayed out of the sum of £24. 0s. 6d. obtained by granting new leases on the manor of Plenynt.

We must not omit to mention here, as a specimen "*magno conatu magnas nugas dicendi*," an event which, as it is recorded in the chartulary with extraordinary precision of time and place, may be inserted in the words of that document, "*M'd' q'd die conu'sionis s'c'i Pauli anno d'ni Mill'mo*

* "*Calefactorium*," called in another place "*coquina*."

ccc'mo xxxiiij & anno r'r' Edwardi iij a conquestu nono Fr' Walt' de la Houe p'or hui' dom' plantavit vna' arbore' ap'd ponte' Ep'i in platea eor' in qua tu'c fuit cursus aque ducti que arbor Wichens appellatur."

Abbot de Geytyngton having lost his sight, surrendered his office after a long life of active exertion on Sunday the vigil of St. Pancras (the 11th of May) 1338. He departed this life on the 22d of February following, and his body was buried under the first arch of the cloister which he had erected. The register remarks that, during his government, "anni fuerunt fertiles in blado et vino et rationabiles in pace regni."

XVI. WALTER DE LA HOUE, a native of Devonshire, and porter of Newenham, was elected abbot on the 13th of May, 1338. He was a man of talent and activity, and had been accordingly employed by his predecessor in obtaining the confirmations of the abbey charters, and in conducting the negotiations relative to the advowson of Lup-pit. The presentation to this living had been the object of a tedious litigation with the family of Carew, and as it was brought to a settlement at this period, the circumstances respecting it may be briefly related here.

Reginald de Mohun, the founder of the abbey,

was lord of Otery-Mohun and patron of the church of Luppit, within which parish the manor is situate. This church with the right of presentation and all its appertenances, he bestowed on the abbey in the year 1248, and at the same time wrote to the bishop, and to the dean and chapter of Exeter, informing them of his grant, and requesting them to support the abbot and convent in their future possession of the living. A bull was afterwards obtained from pope Alexander IV. by abbot de Blancheville, confirming the grants of the churches of Plenynt and Luppit to the abbey. This instrument is dated “V Kal’ Nouembr’” in the third year of Alexander’s pontificate, viz. the 28th of October, 1256, and by it, the pope, after the apostolical benediction, expresses his solicitude and especial favour towards persons of religious profession, and as it had been represented to him that the abbey of Newenham was a recent foundation, possessing only a slender and insignificant revenue, “q’d est nouella plantacio, reddit’ h’eat valde tenues et exiles,” he proceeds, being moved by paternal compassion for their necessities, to appropriate to their perpetual use, the two churches with all their rights and appertenances; directing at the same time that the vicars to be respectively appointed to their service, shall be endowed with congruous portions of the revenues for their maintenance, and for

enabling them to support the episcopal, archidiaconal, and other burdens. This bull was accompanied by a papal letter addressed to the prior of Hyde abbey in Hampshire, directing him to place the abbot and convent in possession of the two churches, and to support them in the same. Henry Flemmynge, who had been appointed to the rectory of Luppit by Reginald de Mohun, died in the year 1266, and was succeeded by Baldwin de Mohun, a younger brother of Reginald, who in consequence of an arrangement previous to the death of the latter, was presented to the living by John de Northampton abbot of Newenham, and was regularly instituted and inducted. This rector however died in the following year, and by the authority of the prior of Hyde, exhibited in letters addressed to the bishop and the archdeacon of Exeter, and to the rural deans of Dunkeswell and Honiton, the abbot and convent were, in the person of Nicholas de Ferdonu' one of the monks, placed in actual possession of the church. But this possession they were no longer allowed to retain undisputed. Sir Reginald de Mohun at his death had left the manor of Otery-Mohun with its appertenances to his second son, Sir William, who claimed the church as an appendage to his manor, and brought his action against the abbot and convent for recovery of the presentation. The abbot did not appear, and the

jury decided in favour of Sir William,* who proceeded accordingly to take forcible possession, and to present Robert de Toneworth to the living, who was instituted and inducted notwithstanding the pope's mandates conveyed by the prior of Hyde to the ecclesiastical authorities of Exeter. These proceedings caused an application to cardinal Ottobonus the pope's legate, who by his letter, dated from Northampton on the 24th of June, 1268, directed the dean of the Arches of the blessed Mary in London to investigate the matter, and decide between the claimants. Before however the case could be settled by this court, the living became again vacant, and John de Godeleye was presented by the Mohuns. In 1273 also Robert de Pentelowe was nominated to the benefice by John de Carew, who had married Eleanor the daughter and co-heiress of Sir William de Mohun. The opposition of the abbot and convent seems at this time to have been unavailing, for these presentations are said to have been effected clandestinely, as was also that of William de Leycester, who was appointed to the living in 1312 by one of the family of Carew. On the death of this rector in 1327, abbot de Geytyngton made a determined stand against the continuance of what he considered to be an invasion

* *Abbreviatio Placitorum*, 52 Hen. III., rot. 5.

of his right. The prior of Hyde was again applied to, and he gave instructions to the priors of St. Mary Magdalen's at Barnstaple, and St. James' near Exeter, with the deans of Dunkeswell and Honiton, and the vicar of Axminster, to induct the abbot and convent to the vacant church. This was accordingly done in the person of Walter de la Houe, at that time one of the monks, by delivering the key of the church door into his hand in the presence of a notary public who certifies to the fact. The Carews were not less active than their opponents, and John de Whiteby was nominated and instituted to the living. The official of the bishop of Exeter now summoned a convocation or commission of twelve neighbouring clergymen,* to meet in the chapel of All Saints at Honiton,† for the purpose of investigating the right. They decided in favour of the presentation by John de Carew, on which the dean of the Arches, on the part of the abbot, summoned the other parties to his court held

* The meeting took place on the 6th of August, 1327, and the names of this ecclesiastical jury were these, Sirs Thomas de Hemyock, William de Hydon, (Clayhidon) Martin de Comb, (Combralegh) Philip de Honeton, John de Farweye, Clement de Wydeworth, and Richard de Northlegh, rectors; Robert de Yertec' (Yarcombe) William de Upot' (Upottery) Gilbert de Aylescomb, Philip de Donkeswill, and Martin de Schildon, vicars.

† This building occupied a part of the site of the church erected in 1835; vestiges of the ancient structure were to be traced in the base of the tower, which previously adjoined the school-room.

“in the church of the blessed Mary of Aldermarie-church” in London. The proceedings were afterwards removed into the civil court, and the result appears to have been that the abbot and convent acquiesced in the undisturbed possession of the living by John de Whiteby. At his death John de Carew presented Robert Grymeston who was instituted and inducted. But Walter de la Houe, who was now abbot of Newenham, recommenced proceedings, and a final arrangement was at length concluded, by which the sum of one hundred pounds sterling was paid by the abbot and convent to John de Carew for a disclaimer on his part of any right to the living. It thus became the property of the abbey, after a long and expensive litigation, which cost the convent more than a hundred pounds, exclusive of the sum paid at the close of the affair;* after which a fine of 20s. was incurred for a licence from the crown to retain the church of Luppit in their own hands.† It may be added here that on the death of Robert Grymeston in 1401, Thomas Carew attempted to renew his claim to the presentation by an action of “quare impedit,” against the abbot in the court of King’s bench, which was

* These particulars have been obtained principally from the abbey chartulary, in which the transcription of the deeds relating to this matter, occupies no less than forty-eight pages.

† Rot. orig. in cur. scacc. 18 Edw. III. rot. 38.

decided in favour of the latter in Trinity term, 2nd Henry IV,* and that Sir Nicholas Carew also revived the question during the abbacy of Trystram Crucherne, but without effect.

The abbot and convent, having now obtained possession of the living of Luppit, seemed to be determined on engrossing as much of the income arising from it as possible, and, as was commonly the practice in the case of a living appropriated to a religious community, afforded the priests whom they appointed to the vicarage, so slender an allowance, that it was insufficient for their support, after the episcopal dues and other demands on them were satisfied. This was in direct contravention to the instructions of the papal bull appropriating the church to them, and Courtenay, archbishop of Canterbury, having on his metropolitanical visitation ascertained the fact, represented it to the appropriators of the living, and admonished them to augment the endowment. The abbot

* The names of the Jurors summoned on this occasion to the number of thirty-one, were as follows:—John Dynham, ch'r, William Beaumont, John Chuselden, Richard Warr, Edw. Pyne, John Wotton, Ralph Lapflode, Hugh Donne, Giles Aysshe, John Raleigh of Smalridge, William Jewe, John Whyting, John Daunay, John Chepman of Honiton, John Vautord of Clist, William Ayssheford, John Aysshe of Otryton, John Waltham, Thomas Duke, John Tryuet, Bartholomew Pyle, William att Hille, John Putys, John Prustes, Richard Lotel, John Cadehay, John Knoll, John Crosse, Martin atte Forde, John Holewey, and John Hippegas.—Chart. fol. 89 +.

and convent however neglected to do this, and refused to obey the archbishop's summons to his court. They were accordingly declared contumacious, and the metropolitan proceeded by an instrument dated on the 25th of September, 1385, to apportion a congruous endowment to the vicar for the time to come.* This deed after specifying the portion of tithes and offerings which are to fall to the vicar, proceeds to divide the burdens, and mention is therein made of a yearly pension of 13s 4d, payable to the warden and canons of the collegiate church of St. Mary at Ottery, which the abbot and convent had made chargeable upon the revenues of the church of Luppit, but which the archbishop directed to be transferred back to them by whom the grant had been originally made.†

The predecessor of abbot Walter, having acquired, as already stated, the royal license to purchase lands, a writ of "ad quod damnum" was

* Gibson's Codex Juris eccles. Anglic. ed. 1761, vol. ii. p. 1490.

† A copy of this grant may be found in the appendix to Oliver's "Monasteries in Devon." It does not appear under what circumstances this pension was given to the college of St. Mary at Ottery, but as it was a recent establishment, formed by Bishop Grandisson, who was also a great benefactor to Newenham, it may have been a voluntary grant in assistance of the new foundation. The gift was appropriated to the maintenance of lights in the church, as appears by the Valor Ecclesiasticus temp. Hen. VIII. vol. ii. p. 307.

obtained in the 18th Edward III. and the under-mentioned property was added to the conventual estates, viz. two houses in Axminster purchased of Sir Thomas Fychet, valued at 3s per annum, three acres of land at the same place bought of Gilbert de Umfraville worth 1s per annum, one acre of Richard Okebeare estimated at 2d yearly, two houses in Exeter, one near the south gate bought of Richard de Leu and worth 3s a year, the other belonging to Sir John de Raleigh, situated opposite to the Dominican convent in that city, worth 3s 8d a year, and one acre of land in Lup-pit, bought of John Carew of the value of 2d yearly.*

The abbot also, about the year 1345, completed the acquisition for his monastery of the lands called Tollershays, "Tol'rsheys apud la gate" or the grange "de la yate," now Tolshays and Yeatlands, in the parish of Axminster. The deeds recited in the chartulary respecting this property described the several portions of these lands by name; part of them seems to have been called Yingehays, and part Cockshays, which were situated at a place called Cock-atte-wode, and belonged to a William Cock; but the greater portion were

* A copy of the inquest taken in pursuance of this writ, will be found in the appendix, No. V.

the property of Thomas Rounceval de la Yate.* One acre is described as adjoining the "horestone."†

About the same time also Abbot Walter obtained the lands called Reryshays in Membury, and effected an exchange with Stephen de Haccombe of a piece of land in Axminster field, for a plot of ground which lay on the outside of the abbey gate adjoining the road leading from Axminster to Musbury. We find two deeds confirming this exchange, one dated at Axminster on the 12th of April, 1347, granted by Edmund earl of Cornwall as lord of the barony of Braneyns, of which Haccombfee was one of the dependant manors; and the other by King Edward III, dated at Westminster on the 8th of March. 1354, protecting the abbot and convent from the operation of the statutes of mortmain as far as regards this piece of ground.

Another house in the city of Exeter, which was also the property of Robert de Leu, was acquired by abbot de la Houe: it adjoined the barbican of Exeter Castle, and was situated in the High Street, opposite St. John's Hospital, "in

* *Inquis. ad quod damnum* 19 Edw. III. No. 20, "Thoma Rouncevall dedit priori de Nyweham unum messuag' et c't'ras t'ras in Axemore, Devon." *Calend.* p. 315.

† Horestone. The boundary stone or stone of memorial. See Hamper on Hoar stones, p. 6, and *The British and Roman Remains at Axminster*, p. 58.

summo vico in parochia s'c'i Laurentii ex opposito Hospitalis s'c'i Joh'is." The abbot here erected a handsome building for his occasional residence, and some remains of it were not long ago to be discovered. The site is now occupied by the house at the eastern corner of the entrance into Castle Street from High Street.*

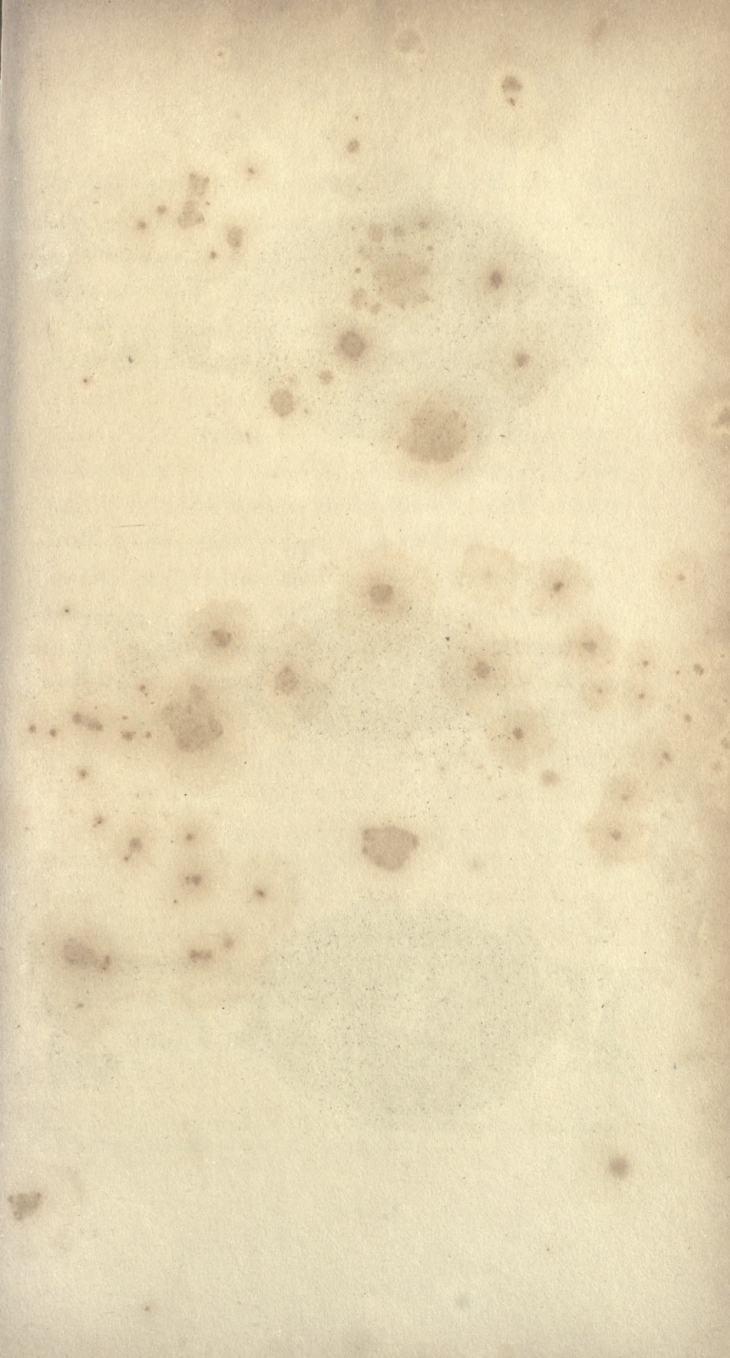
Neither was the abbot neglectful of his conventual buildings at home. He completed the refectory which had been commenced by his predecessor, and erected a new bake-house adjoining to it. He enclosed the grange at Shapwick, and in the year 1347 he caused the erection of a cross at the entrance of the abbey, near "the bishop's bridge," in commemoration of the souls of the founders and the benefactors to the monastery. A large bell which he provided for the church tower he named the Grandisson, in compliment to the bishop of Exeter, who had contributed the sum of ten marks towards its purchase. The abbot thus carefully attended to the secular interest of his house and the state of the buildings, all which formed an important part of the duty expected from the superior of a convent.

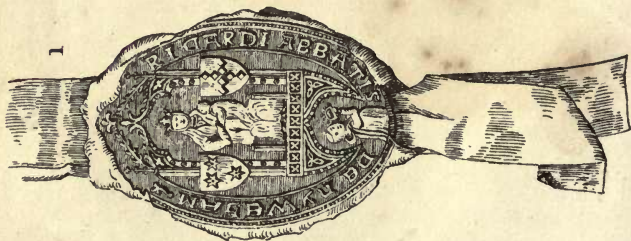
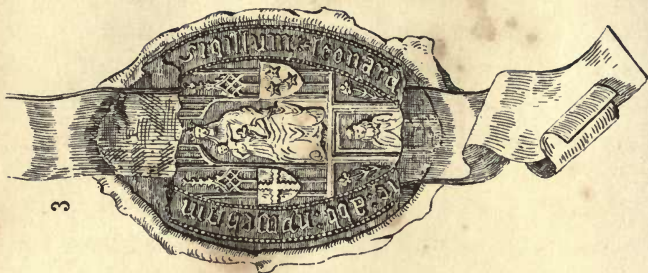
* Most of the abbots and priors of the Devonshire monasteries had their inns or town residences within the walls of the city of Exeter, as the Bishops had in London, where they lived a part of the year in much splendour and hospitality. Oliver's Exeter, p. 79, and Monasteries in Devon, p. 58.

During this abbot's administration, it was, that the plague which had spread desolation almost throughout the world, reached England, and visited the abbey; no less than twenty monks, three lay brethren, and eighty-eight secular persons of both sexes who lived within the walls, were carried off by its violence, "ad magnu' dampnu' hui' dom's," leaving of the members of the convent only the abbot and two monks surviving.*

Of abbot de la Houe's government, we have nothing further recorded, except the incidental remarks that during its whole period a direful war was carried on between the kings of England, France, and Scotland, to the great disorder of the whole commonwealth; and that on the vigil of

* This was the most fatal pestilence recorded in the history of mankind. In England it was termed "the great plague," and in the north of Europe, where it raged with great severity, "the black death." This distemper is said to have begun in the Levant in 1346, from whence Italian traders brought it to Sicily, Pisa, and Genoa. It proceeded at the same time through Asia and Europe, and in 1349 arrived at the coast of England. "It passed" says Stow "even unto Bristow, and raged in such sort that the Gloucestershire men, would not suffer the Bristow men to have accesse to them nor into their country by any meanes." It reached Scotland, Wales, and Ireland, and the historians of the north describe its ravages in Germany and Denmark, where the cattle, and even vegetation, are said to have perished under the awful visitation. It lasted generally about five months in each country, and in some places nearly half the population is said to have been cut off. In Rymer's "Fœdera" vol. v. p. 693, appears a proclamation (sub anno 1350), "De magna parte populi in ultima pestilencia defuncta, et de servientum salariis proinde moderandis."





St George, in the year 1346, John de Wellis, cellarer of Newenham, was elected abbot of Dunkeswell, "Donekiswille," a Cistercian monastery near Honiton.*

We are not informed of the precise date of abbot Walter's demise.†

XVII. RICHARD BRANESCOMBE, called also Richard Exeter, a native of Devon, succeeded to the dignity of Abbot on the 7th of March, 1361, but we learn nothing more respecting him than that he performed many good deeds for his monastery. Impressions from two seals of this abbot, have been preserved, (see plate II, figures 1 and 2,) they are appended to deeds relating to estates in Axminster unconnected with the abbey, dated in 1375, and 1386.‡ The larger of them represents the Virgin

* For a confirmatory charter obtained by abbot De la Houe reciting a deed by Sir Reginald de Mohun, the founder of the abbey, see the appendix No. VI.

† The conventual chartulary, to which we are indebted for the greater part of the foregoing information, appears to have been compiled during the abbacy of Walter de la Houe; for except in the instance of one deed and a few miscellaneous notices, it does not afford any particulars subsequent to this period. The names of the succeeding abbots have been obtained from the Newenham register in the British Museum, and from the reverend G. Oliver's "Historic collections relating to Monasteries in Devon."

‡ In the possession of the devisees of the late Mr. Frampton, who purchased the manor of Lord Petre.

with the Holy Child, crowned, and seated under a splendid canopy, on the sides of which hang shields with the armorial bearings of Mohun, and De Cancellis, the founder of the abbey and the principal benefactor to it. At the foot is a monk offering what is perhaps intended to represent the charter of the foundation: the legend is "**S. Ricardi abbatis De Ryweham.**" The other is the abbot's private seal, and was probably set in a ring. It also represents the Virgin and the Child, with a monk in adoration below. The legend of this is "**Ave Maria gracia plena.**"

XVIII. JOHN LEGGA'S, the next abbot, who was born in Somersetshire, was instituted on the 24th of September, 1391, on which occasion he subscribed to his profession of obedience to Brantyngham, bishop of Exeter, "*hoc signum faciendo +.*"

The only incident of which mention has been found in connection with this abbot is the circumstance thus briefly related in Cleaveland's History of the family of Courtenay, at page 267, but respecting which no further particulars have been ascertained.

"In 1392, 16th Rich. II. Sir Philip Courtenay being returned for one of the knights of the shire for Devon, came before the king in parliament, and

was accused of sundry heinous matters.
 ‘The abbot of Newenham in Devon complaineth against the said Sir Philip, for imprisoning him and two of his monks with great force’. Sir Philip being demanded thereof in full parliament, could make no good justification; wherefore it was adjudged that he should not have to do with the abbot, his monks, nor any of their things; but he should be bound to the good behaviour, and for contempt was committed to the Tower. Sir Philip Courtenay, a little time after, prayed that he might be discharged, and that he might purge himself, and on Monday, November 25th, at the request of the lords and commons, he was restored to his place and good name, for that he had submitted himself to reasonable arbitrement.”

XIX. LEONARD HOUNDALRE, who succeeded before the month of February, 1402, was also a native of Somersetshire. A certificate under the seal of this abbot, dated in the year 1411, will be found mentioned in our subsequent notices of Shapwick Grange. That document is preserved in the Augmentation office, and a drawing of the seal which is appended to it has been taken. (See plate II, fig. 3.)* It represents the Virgin seated

* The late respected John Caley, esq., keeper of the records

under a canopy with the infant Saviour on her right arm, and a lily, which is her usual symbol, in her left hand. The shields of Mohun and De Cancellis are suspended on the sides, and the figure of a monk appears below. The legend so far as it is perfect is "**Sigillum Leonard e abb. Nyweham.**"

Sir William Bonville of Shute, knight, who died in 1407, by his will dated on the 2nd of November, 1375, bestowed the sum of twenty marks on the abbey, and directed that his body should be buried in the choir of the church at Newenham, between those of his ancestors and the high altar, and that two priests should sing masses for the repose of his soul, and the souls of his father and mother and others his relations, for the term of twenty years.

XX. NICHOLAS WYSEBECHE, a native of Cambridgeshire, the next abbot, was confirmed in his office on the 29th of October, 1413, and the only circumstances which have been met with in connection with his government are that he obtained a confirmatory charter for his monastery from king

in the Augmentation office, kindly permitted this copy to be taken from a drawing in his possession. Abbot Houndalre's seal may also be found affixed to two deeds among the Harleian collection of charters in the British Museum, one dated on the 5th of February, 1402, the other on the 3rd of September, 1406.

Henry VI. dated on the 14th of April, 1428,* and that he was appointed with five of his neighbours a mediator in a dispute between Sir William Bonville of Shute, and Joan the widow of Sir Thomas Brooke, arising from the obstruction of several public roads and paths in the formation and enclosure of the park at Weycroft by the lady and her son. The transcript of an instrument has been preserved which recites the circumstances of the case at great length, and concludes with an award, which, as the abbot was nominated by the lady Brooke, does credit to his justice as an umpire, as well as to his hospitality; for after deciding on every point in favour of Sir William Bonville, and directing all the ways in question to be thrown open to the public, it concludes by directing that the knight and the lady should ride amicably together to Newenham abbey on a day appointed, where they should exchange a kiss in token of peace and friendship, and dine together at the abbot's table. This deed is dated at Axminster on the 13th of August, 1428.

XXI. TRYSTRAM CRUCHERNE, born in Somersetshire, was created abbot on the 15th of July, 1431, and received the benediction of bishop Lacy

* In the possession of the devisees of the late Mr. Frampton.

on the 27th of July, 1432, at Crediton. During his government the right of presentation to the vicarage of Luppit was again disturbed, and the abbot was compelled to bring a writ of "quare impedit" against Sir Nicholas Carew. The result, after a troublesome litigation, was in the abbot's favour, who presented Richard Somerville to the living, at the request, it is said, of William Wynard, Sir Nicholas Carew, and others. But the cost of the action, which fell on the abbot and convent, amounted to a sum exceeding forty marks.

A release of the lands called Orchard, at Norton in Cornwall, was obtained by this abbot from Nicholas de Marisco, as was also a tenement in Axminster, which had belonged to Roger Cartyr.

On the last leaf of the abbey chartulary appears the following courteous epistle, which although without date, must be assigned to this period. The writer of it, Adam Moleyns, was proctor of Peter Barbo, one of the two prebendaries in the church of York, who were coportionaries of the church of Axminster, and as he speaks of himself as the parson, it is probable that he was the lessee of the tithes and church lands under those dignitaries. He was clerk of the council, keeper of the privy seal, and bishop of Chichester. His ordination to that see took place in the year 1445, and he died by assassination at Portsmouth in 1450.

The letter itself sufficiently explains the occasion of its being written, and the claim in question was given up to the abbot in consequence of his being lord of the hundred and manor of Axminster.

‘ Adam Welbeloued sirs I grete you wel and lete you
 Bisshop of wyte that I am enformed that ther wer diu’s
 Chychestre. goods and catelles and also money take’ late
 with a theef in ye chirche and chirche yerde of
 my p’sonage of Axmynst’r the wiche were lefte with you and
 othir to kepe til it were det’mined be twen me and ye abbot
 of Newenham wheder thei shulde p’teyne to me as to ye p’son
 of the said chirch or els to ye said abbot by reson of his lib’tees
 there Wherevpon ye evidences of ye said lib’tees haue be
 shewed to me and to my Counsail Whereby I conceyve yat
 ye said abbot hath ryght to ye said goods and money and not
 I Wherfor I willyng to do noo wronge to the said abbot
 pray and charge you and all othir yat have ye said goods and
 money to deliue’ it to ye said abbot for any ryght or clayme
 yat i p’tende or haue y’rto. And yis my writyng shall be to
 you a sufficiant discharge y’of ayenst me myn Attourneys
 and myn assignes. Wreten at London ye xij day o’Juil’.”

“To my trusty and welbeloued
 Danid Moleyns Esquier John
 Hembury vicar of Axmynster
 John Pery and Henry Bony and
 to eu’ych of them.”

Of abbot Tristram nothing more has been found on record; but it may be noted here that in the year 1452 the abbot of Newenham was summoned with those of Ford, Dunkeswell, and other

monasteries, to attend a convocation of the prelates and clergy of the province of Canterbury.*

XXII. WILLIAM HUNTEFORD, was admitted to the abbacy on the 12th of September, 1456, in the parish church of Axminster during high mass, by Roderick suffragan to bishop Nevyll; but nothing further has been ascertained respecting him.

On the 12th of May 1484, the first year of king Richard III, a deed was obtained from the crown, reciting and confirming the charters granted to the abbey by former sovereigns.†

XXIII. JOHN Of this abbot's surname we are ignorant, as well as of the days of his election and his episcopal benediction.

It is to be regretted that neither of the conventual registers had been brought down to a later period; for it was during this abbot's administration that king Henry the seventh, on his progress from Exeter to London, honoured the abbey with a visit which lasted several days; and we may not unreasonably have expected some account of the

* Wilkins Concil. Magn. Brit. et Hib. Ex registro Kempe archiep. Cant. fol. 229, et MS. Collegii C. C. Cantab. vocat Synodalia, p. xiii.

† This deed is also among the late Mr. Frampton's muments. It has the remains of a large seal attached to it.

circumstances attending so interesting an occasion. The king, on the landing of Perkin Warbeck in Cornwall, had despatched his forces to the west, where, at Taunton, they were met by the rebel troops; but the pretender, after a show of attacking the royal army, abandoned his associates and fled to the abbey of Beaulieu, in Hampshire, where he took sanctuary. The king himself arrived at Taunton on the 4th of October, 1497, and on the following day Perkin was brought there a prisoner, having surrendered himself on promise of pardon. The king then proceeded to Exeter, where he caused some of the rebels to be hanged, and where he graciously received the wife of Perkin, the beautiful lady Catherine Gordon, who had been taken at St. Michael's Mount.* Leaving Exeter on the 3rd of November, the king passed the night at the college of St. Mary at Ottery, and on the next day proceeded to Newenham Abbey. At this place the king remained nearly a week, until the 10th, when he resumed his progress to Bridport, on his way to Dorchester, Salisbury, and London.† Beyond the

* This lady was the daughter of the Earl of Huntley, and the name of "the white rose," which had been bestowed on her husband for his pretensions, was transferred to her on account of her modesty and beauty.

† The dates and names of the places here mentioned have been obtained from "The privy-purse expenses of King Henry VII," between the years 1491 and 1505; a manuscript compiled

bare fact of the royal visit to the abbey, and its duration, we are destitute of information on this interesting subject. A journal of events connected with the sojourn of a monarch so benevolent, and so liberal in things relating to arts, science, and literature, as Henry appears to have been, and withal so fond of music, of novelties, and of the sports and entertainments of the age, would have offered a fund for antiquarian investigation and inquiry; but we are left to conjecture the mode of his reception, the style of his entertainment, and the manner in which his time was occupied. It is difficult indeed to imagine for what reason the king remained so long a time at Newenham at this period, unless he was engaged in making enquiry for such of the men of consideration in the counties of Devon and Somerset as had taken part with the rebels, and in appointing the commissioners for detecting them. Among those commissioners the name of Sir Amias Paulet appears, whose residence in Somersetshire was at no great distance from this place. It may be conjectured also, that the king was entertained

by Craven Orde, esq., one of the secondaries of the office of the King's remembrancer of the court of Exchequer, and now among the additional MSS. in the British Museum, no 7099. See also "Excerpta Historica" parts 1 and 2, in which extracts from this MS. have appeared. It is possible if the originals could be discovered and referred to, that some further particulars might be found therein.

by the lord marquess of Dorset, at his manor and mansion of Shute, which is nearly adjoining to the abbey demesnes, for this nobleman appears to have been on terms of familiar intercourse with his sovereign.*

To return to our unpretending annals. The abbot, in January 1496, leased to John Symmes for three lives, an estate in Luppit, lately tenanted by John Wydecombe, at the rent of 4s with suit at Spernebarne court twice in the year. On the 28th of June, 1512, abbot John, (presumed to be the same,) leased to Ralph Lome for three lives, an estate with the mill in Parva Wylton, together with a toft and a parcel of the moor on the north-west of Parva Wylton, at the annual rent of 18s.†

On the accession of king Henry VIII, this abbot obtained a grant of letters patent from the crown, confirming the charters of several previous sovereigns up to the period of the foundation of the abbey.‡

* The following items appear in the king's privy-purse expenses, "1492, July 7th. To my lorde marquis for a ring of gold £100. 1495, March 20, Loste at the buttes to my lorde marques £1."

† The abstracts of leases which are here and subsequently mentioned, were for the most part extracted by the Rev. G. Oliver from two MS. volumes in the library at Powderham; written when Sir W. Courtenay was appointed a commissioner for the dissolution of the monasteries.

‡ A transcript of those letters patent will be found in the Appendix, No. VII.

XXIV. JOHN ELLYS, the next abbot, was appointed on the 8th of July, 1512, and received the episcopal benediction on the 18th of the same month, in the ancient chapel within the walls of his monastery. The only notice which we find respecting him is, that on the 29th of January, 1524, he granted a lease to John Colman of Exeter, baker, and Jane his wife, of a tenement in the High-street of Exeter, opposite to St. John's hospital, at the annual rent of 13s 4d.

XXV. JOHN ILMINSTER, alias CABELL, was blest as abbot in the church of Newenham, on the 3rd of August, 1525.

On the 19th of April, 1527, this abbot granted a lease of the tolls of the market of Axminster, to John and Alice Lang and Alice their daughter, for their several lives, with the office of bailiff of the market, but excepting the profits of the fair, held on the vigil and on the feast of the nativity of St. John the baptist, of the bellringing and proclamation, and of the assize of bread; at the rent of 60s and the charge of repairing and covering the butchers' stalls, and of cleaning the shambles when necessary. On the same day the abbot leased to Thomas and Margery Hore and their son John, a tenement "apud le Wyll," another called "Notisplace," with the estate of overland lying west by

“the watter” within the tything of Clayhill, and a field called Stritcheham-close there, at the rent of 50s 2d.

XXVI. RICHARD GYLL, the last abbot of Newenham, was confirmed in his dignity by the benediction of Veysey bishop of Exeter, on the 3rd of February, 1530.

The undermentioned leases and grants were executed by this abbot, in addition to those which will be noticed under the estates of Norton and Plenynt, and elsewhere.

10th of May, 1530, a lease to John Way, of a tenement and garden in the parish of St. Mary Major at Exeter, for eighty-seven years, at the rent of 20s.

7th of February, 1531, a lease to Richard Hicks, vicar of Luppit, of a cottage there for the term of sixty years, at the rent of 10s.

24th of February, 1532, a lease to Tristram Boner and his two sons, for their several lives, of a tenement in Axminster, with a garden and a close adjoining, also four acres of land there lying, “subtus Clocombe,” also an acre of meadow lying in Over Stagmore, and a tenement called Lechisbarne, with eight acres of arable land, at the rent of 8s 2d, and suit at the two yearly courts at Axminster.

23rd of June, 1532, John Morys was appointed bailiff of the manor of Luppit by abbot Gyll, with an annuity of 26s 8d.*

10th of June, 1533, a lease to John Turney and his assigns, of a messuage in Magna Wylton for eighty-one years, at the rent of 31s.

3rd of November, 1533, John Drake of Musbury gent. was appointed by abbot Gyll, to be steward of the conventual property in Newenham and Axminster, with an annuity of 26s 8d.

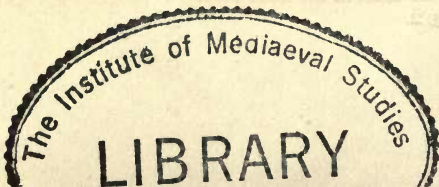
15th of November, 1533, abbot Gyll appointed Anthony Harvey gent, auditor of the abbey estates in Devon and Cornwall, with an annuity of 20s.

16th of November, 1533, a lease to James Nott esq. Nicholas Voyell, and Thomas Wynell, of two gristmills in Axminster, with "fre fyshyng from the hed were unto the mylle tayle" for their several lives at the rent of £5.

4th of March, 1535, an annuity of 40s was granted under the convent seal to Alexander Everett. This grant was allowed by the Augmentation court on the 12th of June, 1542.†

* The manor of Luppit did not belong to the abbey, it is therefore remarkable that the bailiff should have been appointed by the abbot and convent.

† "During the scuffling for abbey lands in the 27th year of King Henry VIII, the Court of Augmentation was set up by act of Parliament to be a court of record, and to have an authentick great seal besides a privie seal, and several officers appointed for



29th of June, 1537, abbot Gyll granted an annuity to Philip Furze gent. of 20s charged on the manor of Axminster. This was allowed by the Augmentation court on the 18th of June, 1539.*

20th of July, 1537, an annuity of 26s 8d was granted to John Southcote. This also was allowed by the Augmentation court, on the 6th of July, 1539.

26th of October, 1537, abbot Gyll and the convent grant absolutely to Sir Thomas Dennis knight, and his heirs, all their estate and rights in Kilmington, also the reversion of Brodehouse, containing six acres of land, and of two closes, one lying near "Yertebyrge," Yarty bridge, containing

management thereof with large fees allowed unto them. It belonged unto this court to order, survey, and govern, sell, let, and set, all manours, lands, tenements, rents, services, tythes, pensions, portions, advowsons, patronages, and all hereditaments formerly belonging to priories, and since their dissolution to the crown, as in the printed statute more largely doth appear. All persons holding any leases, pensions, corrodies, &c. by former grants from the convents, came into the court, produced their deeds, and upon examination of the validity thereof had the same allowed unto them. And although providence for themselves, and affection to their kindred, prompted many fryers and convents, foreseeing their tottering condition, to antedate leases to their friends, just at the dissolution, yet were they so frightened with fear of discovery, that very few frauds in that kind were committed. The court was very tender in continuing any leases upon that least legal consideration."—Fuller's Church History, b. vi. s. 6.

* An annuity of 40s to this gentleman, granted by Dunn, abbot of Buckfastleigh, on the 24th of November, 1538, was allowed by the court at the same time.

three parts of an acre, the other comprising three acres lying in Castlemede and Goreham, also the reversion of an acre of meadow on the east of Roughmede, and of another acre and a half in Brodemedede, on the west of Trevelian's acre; which lands were then in the tenure of John Stephyns for the term of his life, reserving a rent to the convent of a penny at Michaelmas "*si debito modo petatur pro omnibus serviciis exactionibus et demandis.*"

25th of March, 1538, abbot Gyll granted to Sir George Carew knight, and his assigns, the rectorial tithes and glebe of Luppit, from the ensuing Easter, for a term of five years, renewable during the life of the said Sir George, at the fixed rent of £12 13s 4d.

The period at length arrived, when the measures for the suppression of the papal authority in this kingdom were urged on by the force of advancing truth, and the dissolution of the greater monasteries was determined on. The circumstances attending this step in the reformation of ecclesiastical affairs, are well known as matters of history, and we have only to record that after the example of nearly all others throughout the realm, abbot Gyll and his convent surrendered the monastery of Newenham with all its appertenances to the king's commissioners. This event took place on the 8th of March,

1539;* and on the following day the annuities were assigned to the abbot and monks which are shown in the following extract from a pension book in the augmentation office.*

“Newh'me

Herafter ensuyth the names of the late abbott and covent of Newh'm in the countie of Devonshire wt' the annual penc'ons assigned vnto them by vertue of the king's highnes com'ission the ix day of Marche in the xxx yere of the reigne of o'r most dradde sov'einge lord king Henry the viiith, the first payment of the seid penc'ons and ev'y of them to begyn at the feaste of th'annunaci'on of o'r blessid Lady next comyng for one quart' of do yere, and at the ffeaste of Seynt Michaell th'archangell next comyng for one half yere and so to be payd ev'y half yere during ther liffe that is to saye :

First to Richard Gylle abbot	xliiijli.	—	—
It' to Robt. Cogan p'or	vi ^{li} .	xiijs ^s .	iv ^d .
It' to Willm. Westmester al' ffaute . .	vi ^{li} .	—	—
It' to Willm Pedo, sub p'or.	v ^{li} .	vi ^s .	viiij ^d .
It' to Thomas Whyte	v ^{li} .	vi ^s .	viiij ^d .
It' to John Baker	v ^{li} .	—	—
It' to John Roper	v ^{li} .	—	—
It' to Thomas Mele	v ^{li} .	—	—
It' to John Riche	iiij ^{li} .	xiijs ^s .	iiij ^d .
It' to Raffe Alford.	iiij ^{li} .	xiijs ^s .	iiij ^d .
Thom's Crumwell			
Som'e of the yerly penc'ons afforseid	xx li.	s.	d.
Jo. Tregonwell.	iiijxj.	xiiij.	iiij.
Jo. Smyth.”			

* Bibl. Lansd. MS. No. 97, entitled “A book declaring the times or dates of the suppression of abbeys, priories, &c. in England, with their names, from 1535 to 1539.” fol. 1.—Risdon's Survey of Devon, p. 18.

* See the edition of Dugdale's Monasticon by Messrs. Caley, Ellis, and Bandinel, vol. v. part 2, p. 690.

This amount, £91 13s 4d, was a generous grant from the revenues of the house, which were estimated only at the clear annual sum of £227 7s. 8d, and in common with others on even a more bountiful scale, reflects great credit on the liberality of the government. The pensions thus allowed to the monks, with the addition of a sum granted to each individual as a "vale" or outfit, usually equal to half a year's pension, formed a sufficient provision for the maintenance of single persons who chose to live without occupation, and especially for the great numbers of the monks who entered the ranks of the secular clergy. Some among the religious contrived to make reservations to themselves from the disposable property and valuables of their houses, on the approach of the storm which dispersed them; and although we have no evidence that such was the fact as respects the monks of Newenham, we have good reason to suppose that the disposition to a more culpable proceeding was not wanting to some among them, if the fear of discovery on the visitation of the commissioners had not deterred them from it. A number of documents are in existence which give sufficient proof that at an after period, when such offences might be committed with greater hope of impunity, and a summary punishment was not apprehended, the late abbot and one of the monks

concurrent with a former servant of the house, in the iniquitous project of forging and antedating leases, by means of an old seal of the abbey, to enrich themselves at the expense of the owners of the conventual estates. The following particulars have been selected from a body of evidence as affording some of the most interesting features of the case.

It appears that Lord William Howard, who, as we shall find hereafter, possessed the manor of Axminster in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, having reason to suspect the validity of some of the existing leases of the property, preferred a bill in the court of Star-chamber against the tenants. Three commissioners, viz., Barnard Drake, esq., Robert Frie, and William Westofer, gentlemen, were accordingly appointed by the court to take depositions, and report on the case. At one of their sittings, which took place at West Stafford in Dorsetshire, on the 12th of December, 1582, John Roper, clerk,* deposed among other particulars, as follows.

. “and further saith yat one Mr Richard Gill, last abbot of the s'd monasterie, hath divers times sithence the dissoluc'on thereof, made his re-

* This individual had been a member of the fraternity at Newenham, and was one among the secularized monks who had obtained preferment in the church.

paire unto this deponent, and hath requested him y't he would consent and agree to the making and sealinge of some other leases and graunts under the covent seale, of lands w'h were p'cell of the said monasterie. Whereunto this deponent answered y't he would not in any wise consent and agree unto yt."

At a subsequent examination, held on the 23rd of April, 1584, as to the fact asserted that one John Morris and the "last abbot did forge and counterfett the lease of the mille in Axminster, and divers others; the testimony of many old witnesses examyned by com'ission from the starre chamber" was brought forward, and the following among the rest.

"John Roper, clerk, saith that he was a monk of the monastery of Newham at the time of the dissoluc'on thereof and that all such leases and grants as were lawfully made and graunted by the abbott and covent one year and more before the dissoluc'on, were written in a register booke, which then remained in the monasterie, and thinketh that the same book is now in th' exchequer. . . . he veriley thinketh and beleveth the same (lease) is not good, nor of any force or validitie in lawe, and that it was done by John Morris and abbot Gill Saith he doth knowe that there

was in the said monasterie a covent seale of latten,* w'ch was crased or cracte, and that abbott Gill cawsed a new seale of silver to be made, for yat the other was counterferte. After the makinge whereof the abbot and covent used allwaies to seale w'th the silver seale, and not at any time after w'th ye latten seale, and that the latten seale being broken (to thende the same shoulde be no more used) was afterwards by the s'd John Morris (then servaunt in the monasterie) taken and glewed and sett together. And that the s'd Morris (sithence the dissoluc'on of ye mon'y) did confesse and affirme unto this deponent, that he the s'd Morris had the same olde seale of latten in his custodie or keepinge, and doth verilie think that Morris or the s'd abbott Gill, did w'th ye s'd seale forge and contrive a lease of the mills to Achym."

"Interr. 5, fo. 3, saithe he hath hearde by reporte that the abbott and covent of Newham had a covent seale of latten. That the same was sent to London

* Latten, according to the English dictionaries, was a term given to plates of iron covered with tin, of which utensils are made.—"Ferrum stanno obductum." Hickes Gramm. Franco-Theotioca, p. 96.—"Laiton, métal composé de cuivre rouge et de calamine." Manuel Lexique.—"An alloy of copper and zinc." Encyc. Antiq. 413.—"Brass or a yellow metal composed of copper and calamine." Britton. Archit. Dict.—It is probable that one description of latten at least, had a large proportion of tin in its composition, because that metal very generally bears the name of "latten" among the common people in the west of England.

for a new to be made agreeable to that, and that there was a new seale of silver made.

“Henry Gill of Dallwoode saith that he heard Tristram Bonner saie that he thought Morris had the olde seale of the abbott and covent in his custodie.”

“William Wyett, Interr. 6, fo. 14, saith he hath hearde the said Morris had in his custody a covent seale of the house of Newham, and that he shoulde seale his own lease therewith after the abbey was dissolved.

“John Liddon, Interr. 5, fo. 26, saith that he hath hearde that there was an olde seale w'ch was sent to London to have a new made therby. That Morris caried upp the same and cawsed the new to be made, and as this deponent thinketh Morris did keep the olde seale to his own use, for that the widow of the s'd Morris hath confessed, as he hath heard saie, that the same seale was in her howse sithence the death of her husband.”

A deponent “Interr. 7, fo. 4, saith that he hearde, and Emmott Ferris widow said that John Morris did report unto her, that a lease in Beverton (after Nott's lease) was promised of the mills in Axmister to a brother of her's named Riche, late a monke of Newham, to be made to Wm. Achem to the use of the same Riche, because he was a monke there and could not be capable of any such lease.

And that John Morris willed the same Emott Ferris that she shoulde not dep'te with her interest in the same w'th out his advice."

"John Pulman, Interr. 12, fo. 10, saith that he beinge at Lyme Regis, one Mr. Davie mayor or mayor's deputie there, did report unto this depon't that Wm. Pulman his father had bin at Lyme with John Morris for the registering or proving of a lease, w'ch the same Morris said was made unto one Achem by the abbott and covent of Newham, and when this deponent came home he asked his father wherefore he went to Lyme about such a matter, who answered that he went at the said Morris' request, but wherefore he knew not till he came thitherwards, then tolde him he had a lease made by the abbott and covent to one Achem of Axmister mylle, and that he went thither to register the same lease, and requested him to swere before the mayor, as Morris himself would before him, w'ch he did accordingly, yet he confessed to this depon' that he never knew the graunting or sealing of any such lease of the mille, although he had sworne the same."

"Robert Salisbury, Interr. 17, fo. 30, saith that upon a certain falling owte betwene one Tristram Bonner and John Morris, this deponent came unto them as they were at words, moved them to be frends, and told them it was a shame that two

such old men of their yeres should so behave themselves, that the people wondered at them, having bin so great frends before ; And this deponent p'swaded them to quietnes. The s'd Morris answered y't Bonner was a wicked man, Bonner replied that Morris was a wicked and false man, whereuppon Morris seeinge the people whent abowte them dep'ted and went awaie. After his dep'ture this deponent did talke with the s'd Bonner, and tolde him that the s'd Morris would take advantage of his words, for that he hadd called him false harlott,* whereuppon Bonner, beinge blynde, asked this deponent whether there were any more company with him or no, who answered no. Then Bonner tolde this examynate y't Morris should not take any advantage of his words, for y't he the s'd Bonner knew too moche of his doings. Then this deponent demanded what Bonner knew of Morris' doings, Bonner answered this deponent

* The term "harlot," according to Tooke, is merely "horelet," the diminutive of "hore," which is the past participle of the verb "hyran" to hire. The word therefore implied a hireling, or one who received wages, and, as in the instance before us, was commonly applied to males. So the term "varlet," and in Chaucer,

" A sturdy harlot went him aye behind
That was her hostes man and bare a sacke,
And that men yave hem laied it on his backe."

The Sompner's tale.

The family name Hore, so common in Devonshire, arose in all probability from the application of the term in the sense above mentioned.

that Morris had a false covent seale, wherewith he did seale Achym's lease and other leases." &c.

Richard Pynne saith, that he hearde one Bonner of Bristowe saie that the s'd Morris and one Colly a priest of Axmister, abowte xxvj yeres past, were at Bristowe a weeke together or thereabowts, where, as he the said Bonner thought, they had forged a lease of certain lands called Hardwaie and Horselease, w'ch the s'd Morris and his assigns have and doe enjoye by force of the same lease which they suppose was forged at Bristowe."

More might be cited in the same strain, but although part of the testimony is not such as would be admitted at the present day, enough of evidence is produced to justify at least a strong suspicion of delinquency on the part of the late abbot and his associates. The result of the proceedings does not appear.

The common seal of Newenham abbey is not known to be in existence, nor is any perfect impression of it stated to have been met with. A fragment of one remains attached to a receipt dated in 1323. The letters "**SICILLI**" and part of a crosier are all that can be discovered.

Before we proceed to state in detail the value and amount of the conventual property at the time of the dissolution, a few notices of its estimated value, and of some demands upon it at earlier periods of time may be adverted to.

In the year 1253, king Henry the third demanded an aid of his subjects, under pretence of a voyage to the Holy land, and at length succeeded in obtaining from the barons the grant of three marks for every knight's fee. At the same time, pope Innocent the fourth, whose predecessors had long received the first fruits and tenths of all ecclesiastical benefices, bestowed those revenues on the king for the space of three years. This produced in the following year the taxation called Pope Innocent's valor, or the Norwich taxation, from Walter Suffield, bishop of that see, who was charged with its construction. On this occasion, which was about seven years after the foundation of the abbey, their possessions at Axminster were valued at £12. 9s, while the manors of Plenynt and Norton, the former of which only belonged to the abbey at that time, were estimated at £26 2s 6d. The tenths payable accordingly were for Axminster, 24s 10½d, for Plenynt and Norton, 52s 3d,* large sums in those days, and even higher than were raised by the rigid taxation of 1291.

The exactions of the pope and of the crown at this period, upon the clergy, in common with the people at large, were grievous, for almost every council, both of the ecclesiastics and the laity, ter-

* Chart. fol. 113.

minated in making a fresh claim for a subsidy. At the general council held at Lyons in May, 1274, ostensibly to provide for the union of the Greek church with that of Rome, the pope, on the plea of assisting the christians in the Holy land, demanded a subsidy for six years from the church at large. This was resisted by one individual only, Richard de Peckham, dean of Lincoln, who stated on the part of the English clergy, that the exactions of the court of Rome had scarcely left them subsistence. The tax was nevertheless decided on, and the bold priest lost his deanery. A general chapter of the Cistercians arranged the respective sums to be paid by the monasteries of their order, and it appears that the abbey of Beaulieu, with her three daughter foundations of Netley, Hayles, and Newenham, was assessed at £26 for two years, of which the respective portions were these, Beaulieu £13, Hayles 106s, Netley 94s, and Newenham 60s.*

Before the expiration of the term to which the demands of the pope extended, the king, Edward the first, came upon them with an exaction of £1000 from the Cistercian order, probably to maintain his expedition against Llewellyn, prince of

* "Excerpta ex Registro Membranaceo Chartas Regum &c. continente, de fundatione Abbatiae Belli-Loci Regis in com' Southampton. Quod registrum nunc penes nobiliss' Ducem Portlandiae in archivis ejus servatur." MS. in Bibl. Harl. No. 6603, p. 382.

Wales. Of this subsidy, which was enforced in 1276, the province of Canterbury paid two thirds, and that of York the remainder. The sums paid by five among the several abbies have been selected, to shew their relative situation in point of wealth at this period. Beaulieu £23 6s 8d, Waverly £18, Ford £15 6s 8d, Dunkeswell £14 13s 4d, Newenham 100s.*

The next demand upon the abbey of which we have any account, was the well known subsidy of 1288, when pope Nicholas the fourth granted the tenths of all ecclesiastical benefices to king Edward the first, for six years, towards defraying the expense of an expedition to the Holy land. That they might be collected to their full value, a taxation was begun by the king's precept in that year. It was completed throughout the province of Canterbury in 1291, and in that of York in the year following, being under the direction of John de Pontifera or Pontois, bishop of Winchester, and Oliver Sutton bishop of Lincoln. On this occasion the possessions of the abbey were rated as follows:

	£.	s.	d.
The manor of Axminster at	12	8	4
The manor of Plenynt at	7	17	0
The manor of Norton at	5	15	0

on which the tenth was £2 12s 0½d. The church of

* Id. p. 383.

Plenynt was rated in addition at £8. on which the tenth was payable by the vicar, in pursuance of an agreement between the parties.*

From this time until the reign of Henry the eighth we have no further mention of the aids or subsidies levied upon the abbey, but the regular quota of a tenth or a fifteenth, was assessed in common with all others on the valuation just mentioned,† while the conventual property increased rapidly in amount and in value, by the vigilant attention of the abbots and monks to the means which they employed for that end; by the trade

* Chart. fol. 112 b. "Taxacio om'i bonor' temporal' in dioc' Exon' juxta formam bre' com'issionis nob' fe'e' archid' exon.'

Abbas	{ <table> <tr> <td>de</td> <td>Man'iu' de Axmynster' q'd tax.'</td> <td>12</td> <td>8</td> <td>4</td> <td rowspan="2">} S'ma' tot'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Neweh'm</td> <td>Man'iu' de Plene't & Northon</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Dec'.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>h't</td> <td>q'd tax'</td> <td>13</td> <td>12</td> <td>0</td> <td>} 2 12 0½"</td> </tr> </table>	de	Man'iu' de Axmynster' q'd tax.'	12	8	4	} S'ma' tot'	Neweh'm	Man'iu' de Plene't & Northon			Dec'.	h't	q'd tax'	13	12	0	} 2 12 0½"	£	s	d	
de		Man'iu' de Axmynster' q'd tax.'	12	8	4	} S'ma' tot'																
Neweh'm		Man'iu' de Plene't & Northon			Dec'.																	
h't	q'd tax'	13	12	0	} 2 12 0½"																	
	Taxacio ecclesiastica Angliæ et Walliæ auctoritate P. Nicholai IV. circa A. D. 1291. p. 151.																					

This taxation, a copy of which was published by the Commissioners for the Public Records in 1802, is a most important register, because all the taxes, both to our kings and the popes, were regulated by it until the "Valor Ecclesiasticus" was made in 1534; and because the statutes of colleges which were founded before the reformation, are also interpreted by this criterion, according to which their benefices, under a certain value, are exempted from the restrictions in the statute of the 21st Henry VIII. concerning pluralities.

† In return to a writ of King Edw. III, "8 Sept. anno regni 13o," 1339, the Bishop of Exeter certified that the abbot of Newenham paid tenths for the manor of Axminster, 24s 10½d per ann., and for the manors of Plenynt and Norton in Cornwall, 27s 2½d. Bishop Grandisson's Register, vol. i, fol. 19.

which they carried on, and by the improved modes of agriculture adopted in the large farms which they retained in their own cultivation.

The parliament having, in the 26th year of king Henry the eighth, confirmed the decisions of the convocations and the universities disclaiming the papal authority, proceeded to render them valid by various acts, and among others by vesting in the crown the first fruits and tenths of ecclesiastical benefices, which had been formerly claimed by the pope and paid to him. It was consequently determined that a new and more correct valuation should be made for the future assessment of these revenues, and commissioners were accordingly appointed in the several counties who should form a strict estimate of all church property.* The following extract shows the valuation, as recorded by these officers, of the estates belonging to Newenham abbey in 1535.†

* Instructions at length for the guidance of the commissioners in their valuation, will be found in the statute 26 Hen. VIII, cap. 3, s. 10, which also directs that they shall be sworn to execute their commission without favour, affection, fraud, covin, dread, or corruption.

† *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, temp. Hen. VIII. Published by the Commissioners for the Public Records 1810 to 1821, vol. ii, p. 301. The first fruits and tenths are still paid by the clergy according to this return, no new valuation having been made since. A transcript of the royal letters patent, addressed to the Bishop of Exeter, and the other commissioners for the county of Devon, directing them to proceed in their valuation, will be found in the Appendix, No. VIII.

Devon.—A statement of the real annual value of all ecclesiastical possessions, spiritual and temporal, according to the king's commission and instructions. &c. Examined and proved by us, John, by divine permission, bishop of Exeter, John Brytnell mayor of the city of Exeter, William Courtenay and Thomas Denys knights, John Hulle, William Symons, John Ford, auditor, and John Southcote, auditor, Commissioners named and appointed amongst others for this purpose in Easter term A° 27 Hen. VIII.

Of the abbey of Newham, in the aforesaid deanery of Honiton, and Arch-deaconry and diocese of Exeter, in the county of Devon.

The annual value of all the possessions as well spiritual as temporal of Richard, abbot of the monastery of the blessed Mary of Newham aforesaid, in right of the said monastery, examined and approved by the aforesaid commissioners in the term and year above written.

Temporal possessions of the said abbot.

Manor of Axmyster.—Worth in rents p. ann. after abating 38s 2d payable therefrom, being a yearly rent of 18d to the prior of St. John at Exeter and his successors, and 36s 8d the annual fee to Robert Hamlyn the Bailiff	}	£. s. d. 68 0 1½
--	---	---------------------

	<i>£. s. d.</i>	
Dues of court and other contingencies	}	6 2 6
Fines on lands, on an average.	}	8 0 0
		14 2 6

Hundred of Axmyster.—Worth in dues of court and other contingencies p. ann. abating 23s 4d the annual fee to Thomas Veyse, the bailiff	}	2 6 6
--	---	-------

Exeter and Westwater.—Worth in rents of assize p. ann. abating 2s paid yearly to the dean and chapter, for chief rents of certain tenements there	}	8 17 11
---	---	---------

Newham grange and others.—The proceeds of Newham grange worth £30 p. ann., Shapwyke £20, Bevor 20 marks, and Furzleigh 10 marks, in the actual occupation of the said abbot	}	£. s. d. 70 0 0
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Pleynynt.—Worth p. ann. in rents, besides 50s 6d out-goings, viz. 6d chief rent to Henry Kylgaith and his heirs, 20s to Sir John Chamon, knight, for his fee as steward, and 30s to William Achym the bailiff, for his fee.....	}	20 13 5½
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Dues of court, and other contingencies	s. d. 6 0	}	0 16 0
With fines on lands, on an average..	10 0		

Norton.—Worth in rents of assize abating 29s 4d payable therefrom, viz. 13s 4d to Sir Richard Greynfyld knight, the steward, for his fee, and 16s to Digory Greynfyld the bailiff, for his fee.	}	17 12 8
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Total.... £202 9 2

Spiritual possessions:—

The rectory of Luppit.—Worth in rent of the glebe 65s 2d and the tithe sheaf £12 13s 4d abating 13s 4d for an annual pension payable to the custos of the college of Ottery St. Mary ..	}	15 5 2
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The rectory of Pleynynt.—Average value of the tithe sheaf	}	14 0 0
---	---	--------

Total.... £29 5 2

Sum total of temporals 202 9 2

Sum total of spirituals 29 5 2

£231 14 4

Abate annual payments:—	£. s. d.	
To Sir Thomas Denys knight, steward of all the aforesaid, for his fee ..	2 0 0	}
To John Drake and John Haydon auditors of all the aforesaid for their fees.....	2 6 8	
		4 6 8

There remains clear of all deductions p. ann .. £227 7 8

Of which the tenth amounts to £22 14 9¼

This statement will account for the difference in the valuation of the conventual property as given by the respectable authorities Speed and Dugdale, the former states it to be £231 14s 4d; the latter £227 7s 8d, which last is the net sum after abating the salaries of the steward and auditors; but it may be observed that the valuation of Dugdale is the most correct, as it shows the clear amount of income, whereas that of Speed, having been already subjected to several deductions, does not exhibit the real gross amount, viz. £239 11s.

It is worthy of remark as it regards the integrity of the *Valor Ecclesiasticus* in 1535, that entries appear in the conventual chartulary which seem to admit a doubt of its correctness in some particulars.

The annual proceeds of the Newenham demesne with the three other granges or farms which the abbot and convent retained in their own cultivation were estimated as we have seen at £70, but a statement is twice made by which it appears that the tithe alone of the corn which those farms produced was considered to be worth twenty-four marks, or £16, a sum to which the estimated value of the whole revenue bears an inadequate proportion. “*Valor decimæ ‘Garbar’ abbat’s de Nyweh’m co’munibz annis de G’ngiis hic notat’s v’z Boueria (the Newenham demesne) val’t ix marc’s, Bever vii*

marc's, Furslegh iij marc's, Schapewyk cu' Eggil-cou'be v marc's, S'ma xxiv marc's.*

Again, as it respects the manors of Plenynt and Norton, their returns are estimated at £53 2s 1½d, whereas the chartulary states that the proceeds from those estates in the year 1335, were no less than £74 4s 7d, and that a like sum had been received from them for several previous years. "Henr' de Lerkestone red'dit de maneriis de Plenynt et Nortone vltimo anno more suo cxj marc's, iiij s. vij d. vt p't in Comp' sua de anno r'r'. E. t'cij a conquestu nono, hoc est in toto lxxiiij li iiij s vij d." In another place "M'd' q'd Frat' Henric' de Lerkestone reddidit de claro p' multos annuatim de maneriis n'ris de Plenynt and Norton in Cornubia cxj marc's, iiij s vij d et ibidem si similit' hospitalitate' tenuit vt p't in compot' suis de annis d'ni mill'o ccc mo xxiiij, xxiiij, xxv, et xxvj, qui Rotuli in burs' remanent."†

Immediately after the valuation of 1535, John Drake, who was one of the auditors of the estates, obtained a grant from the abbot and convent of the three conventual granges on lease, for the term of his own life and those of his two sons, subject to the annual rent at which those farms had been estimated. This yearly rent was therefore the

* Chart. fol. 119 b, 121. † Id.

amount at which they were valued in the next public investigation of the conventual property, which inquiry, as it was confined to the actual returns of one year, did not take into account such fines or considerations as may have been paid to the abbot and convent, or subsequently to the king, for any beneficial leases.

The examination last mentioned took place more than a year after the dissolution of the abbey, viz. in 1540, and was effected by the king's ministers who were appointed to investigate and report the last year's value of all the estates which had been surrendered into the hands of the crown.

The following is an abstract, with the leading particulars of the return for this abbey, which is comprised in a parchment roll preserved in the Augmentation Office.*

The late monastery of Newenham.

Farm rents of the site and demesne lands of the said monastery, viz.

The site aforesaid, with the orchards, gardens, lands, meadows, and pastures called Hordeway, Newclose, Horselease, Conys, Pochycrofte, Bowryfelde, Chappellclose, Smythclose, Ballelake, Wallmylcloses, Kyngesfelde, thirty acres of meadow in

* An extract of more circumstantial particulars selected from this record will be found in the Appendix, No. IX. The opportunity of consulting this interesting document was afforded by the late John Caley, esq. keeper of the records, with his accustomed liberality.

	£.	s.	d.
Brodemedede, excepting an acre and a half on the western side of Travilyan's acre obtained by Sir Thomas Denys knight from the late abbot, Barsmedede, Strayersmedede, the first shear of eight acres in Ruddemedede, and a water mill leased to Henry Marques of Dorset, by indenture from the king not produced	23	10	0

Certain closes of meadow and pasture called Rowghmershe, Nether Slymylake, and Middle Slymylake, with another close of pasture called the Marsh, leased to Sir Thomas Denys knight, under the seal of the Court of Augmentation	6	0	0
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Total..	29	10	0
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Farm rents of the Granges.—

The messuage or Grange called Shapwike, with lands, meadows, &c. leased to John Drake, and his sons Richard and Robert, for the term of their lives, by indenture under the common seal of the abbey, dated 31st of December, 1535	20	0	0
--	----	---	---

The two messuages or granges called Bevor and Fursleigh, &c. leased to the same parties at the same time	20	0	0
--	----	---	---

Total....	40	0	0
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Manor of Axminster.—

Robert Hamlyn the Bailiff's account	0	6	9
---	---	---	---

Rents of free tenants (particulars not stated) ..	4	18	0
---	---	----	---

Rents of customary tenants in Westwater and the tything of Cleyhill (particulars not stated) ..	16	2	2
---	----	---	---

Rents of customary tenants in Axminster. (Among them appear the following.)—

8s 4d for rent of a pasture called Brewhays, in the tenure of Alice Warren.—10s 4d for rent of a tenement with its appertenances called Persebroke.—20s rent from Joan Mallocke widow, for pasture and arable called Simondsdowne.—60s

farm rent of the market and shambles, in the £. s. d.
 tenure of John Long, jun.—3s rent for a cottage
 and close of land lying at the great stone.—10s
 for rent of certain lands, part of the lands and
 pastures called Secketer, in the tenure of Andrew
 Sayward.—3d for license to fish in certain waters
 with a net called a lombe, held by the said Andrew.—
 6s rent of certain portions of the lands called Cloke-
 ham, in the tenure of Robert Penny.—16d for rent
 of a burgage in Lyme Regis, in the tenure of
 Robert Phillips.*—4d for rent of a moiety of the
 house called the church house, in the tenure of
 Nicholas and John Bonor 47 12 3

Farm rent of two corn mills under one roof
 called the Custommills, with license to fish, and
 other rights, leased to James Nott, esq. Nicholas
 and Thomas Wyenall, for the term of their lives,
 by an indenture under the common seal of the
 abbey, dated on the 16th of November, 1533 5 0 0

Composition for labour of customary tenants .. 0 3 9

Farm rent of the fishery in the whole of the
 waters at Axmouth, leased to Henry, Marques of
 Dorset, by the king's indenture not produced 2 0 0

Profits of the fair, rented by John Lock tenant
 at will 2 0 0

Rent of the bell ringing at the hundred by an-
 cient custom, held by the same John Lock tenant
 at will 0 3 4

Dues of court 1 2 3

Total.... 79 8 6

Hundred of Axminster.—

Dues of court, including 23s 3d for rents called
 Gildhorde, payable by the tythingmen; and certain
 fines 3 17 5½

* No other mention has been found of this tenement,
 except that in the 36th of K. Henry VIII. it was granted to one
 Richard Bowle. See Hutchins' Dorset.

Norton.—

Rents of free tenants	0	5	0
Rents of customary tenants	18	17	0
Dues of court	0	3	6
	<hr/>		
Total....	19	5	6
	<hr/>		

Plenynt.—

Rents of free tenants	1	15	4½
Rents of customary and conventional tenants..	21	6	7
Farm of the Rectory, viz. the tithes of fruit, corn, and grain, within the parish of Plenynt, by agreement for 19 years, dated 20th of August, 1535	14	0	0
Dues of court	0	11	10
	<hr/>		
Total....	37	13	9½
	<hr/>		

Luppit.—

Farm rent of the rectorial tithes, leased to Sir George Carew, knight, for the term of his life, re- newable every five years, by indenture dated 25th of March, 1538	12	13	4
Rent of the Glebe	3	5	2
	<hr/>		
Total....	15	18	6
	<hr/>		

Rents of five burgages and a garden in the city of Exeter.....	2	4	0
	<hr/>		

Gross amount of receipts in the year ending at Michaelmas, 1540	£227	17	9
	<hr/>		

The site of the abbey with part of the demesne lands, had been granted on lease, as we have seen, by king Henry VIII. to the Marquess of Dorset, who was afterwards created Duke of Suffolk; but by the attainder and execution of that nobleman,

on the 11th of October, 1551, they reverted to the crown. Twelve years afterwards these premises and lands, with others, were granted by queen Elizabeth to Thomas duke of Norfolk, who had previously obtained the manor of Axminster. The queen's letters patent are dated at Westminster, on the 12th of February, 1563, and, in recitals of great length, grant the site, circuit, and precinct of the abbey, the lands late in the tenure of the duke of Suffolk, and those held by Sir Thomas Dennis and the Drake family; stating that the whole are to be held of the queen and her successors, in chief, by military service, viz. by the fortieth part of a knight's fee.*

Thomas the fourth duke of Norfolk, was the eldest son of Henry, earl of Surrey, who was executed in the last year of king Henry VIII. and, as is well known to the reader of English history, was himself convicted of high treason and beheaded on the 2nd of June, 1572. By his attainder the hundred and manor of Axminster, with the demesnes of Newenham, came again into the hands of the crown. The duke however, on the 1st of July, 1569, the year in which he was committed to the Tower, secured a portion of his estates, including

* An abstract of these letters patent, so far as relates to the abbey lands will be found in the Appendix, No. X.

the abbey lands, to his family, for some time at least, by granting it on lease to his youngest son Lord William Howard, who continued after his father's death to receive the rents and profits. We are not acquainted with the terms of this lease, but Lord William Howard obtained a permanent interest in the property by letters patent from queen Elizabeth, dated at her manor at Greenwich on the 15th of December, 1579. By these, the hundred and manor of Axminster, with lands in Cumberland, and those which had been the possessions of Newenham abbey, were bestowed on William Typper and Robert Dawe of London, gentlemen, who appear to have been trustees for his lordship. An existing copy of such part of the patent as relates to the property at Axminster, has a memorandum on the back which states that it was granted to those persons by way of concealment, but the cause of such a mode of proceeding is not mentioned. By the terms of this grant the premises are to be held of the queen and her successors as of the manor of East Greenwich, by fealty only, in free and common socage, and not in chief, nor by military service, paying the sum of six shillings and eightpence annually to the crown.*

* Transcript among the muniments of the late Mr. Frampton. That Lord W. Howard had possession in 1592, is clear,

Lord William Howard, after holding possession of these estates for thirty-six years, entered into an agreement for the sale of them to John the first Lord Petre, who had inherited the neighbouring manor of Shute with other extensive domains in this county, late the property of the duke of Suffolk attainted, from his father sir William Petre, to whom they had been granted by queen Mary. Preparatory to the sale a grant was obtained from king James, under letters patent dated on the 16th of April, 1605, by which the reversion of the lands which had been previously granted to Messrs. Typper and Dawe was bestowed upon lord William Howard in his own name,* and on the 7th of June in the same year, the whole of the property in Axminster, including the abbey lands, was transferred

as in that year he had license to sell two water-mills in Axminster to John Pyne, esq. Rot. orig. 34 Eliz. 196, p. 4. Lord William Howard resided at Naworth Castle in Cumberland, so famous in border history, of which he became possessed in right of his lady, Elizabeth, daughter of the lord Dacres of Gillisland, and which is now the property of his lordship's lineal descendant the Earl of Carlisle. At that mansion his lordship formed the valuable collection of manuscripts, some of which are in the British Museum, and others in the library of the College of Arms. See "Young's catalogue of the Arundel MSS." Preface p. v. That his lordship was endued with a generous love of literature may also be inferred from the fact of his having published an edition of Florence of Worcester from a copy in his own possession.

* Rot. orig. 3 Jac. I. p. 6. 94.

to John lord Petre, and Sir William Petre his son, for the sum of £7,200.*

The estates which passed on this occasion, in addition to the lordship and manor of Axminster and other estates, in recitals of great length, were described as the house, scite, circuit, and precinct of the late monastery of Newham alias Newenham, with all its appertences; also lands called Romershe or Bowmershe, and Middlelyme or Middlelyme-lake, a close called the Marshe, a tenement called Shapweke grange, Bevor grange, Farleigh Fursley or Forsley grange, with all their respective rights, privileges, and appertences.

A considerable part of these estates continued more than two centuries in the noble family of Petre, but during that period several portions of them were alienated in fee to various purchasers, and among them the granges of Shapwick, Bevor, and Furslegh, which, as they require more particular notice, will be hereinafter separately mentioned. The site of the abbey and the lands connected with it, remained until the 30th of September, 1824, when William Lord Petre sold the whole of his property in Axminster, including the

* Rot. orig. 3 Jac. I. 118. "Lic' alien' man' de Axm' Joh'i & Will'o Petre mil'." The original instrument, and a copy of that referred to in the last note, are among the deeds of the late Mr. Frampton.

manor, to James Alexander Frampton, esq. solicitor, of the New Inn, London,* but a moiety of the estate then became the property of William Knight, esq. of Axminster. Mr Frampton died on the 28th of September, 1836, and an undivided moiety remains in the hands of his devisees. Mr Knight died on the 3rd of December, 1839, without issue, and the other moiety has descended to his heirs at law.

The rectory of Luppit, which had been so troublesome and expensive a part of the conventual property, reverted to the king on the death of Sir George Carew in 1545, to whom it had been granted on lease; and it continued in the hands of the crown until the reign of James I, when the advowson was purchased by one of the family of Southcote, the representatives of the Carews. Thomas Southcote of Mohun's Ottery, esq., possessed it about the year 1635. In 1685 the patronage of the living belonged to Edmund Walrond of Bovey, esq., who sold it to Sir Walter Yonge, bart., in whose family it continued until the sale of the estates of Sir George Yonge, bart. and K. B., about 1793, when the rectorial tithes,

* To the kindness and liberality of the late Mr. Frampton the writer is indebted for the unreserved inspection and use of the whole of the ancient deeds and muniments in his possession, relating to the estates in Axminster and its neighbourhood, which formerly belonged to the Petre family.

with the presentation to the vicarage, were purchased by William Hawker of Poundisford Lodge, near Taunton, esq. On the decease of that gentleman the whole became vested in his three daughters and co-heiresses, Mrs. Bernard, wife of the reverend James Bernard of Sidmouth, Mrs Helyar of Coker court in Somersetshire, and Miss Hawker of Poundisford Lodge. Mrs. Bernard, the eldest of these ladies, was the patron of the vicarage.*

The houses in Exeter which had been the property of the abbey, with several other tenements and lands in the city and suburbs, formerly belonging to different monasteries, were purchased of the crown by the Chamber of Exeter, on the 3d of May, 1549.†

In thus bringing the annals of Newenham to a close, it must be apparent that we are indebted for much of the information comprised in the foregoing pages to a register and a chartulary of the monastery. It was the practice of most, if not all of the religious houses, at a time when books were scarce and consequently valuable, to employ some of the monks occasionally in copying the works of various writers, sacred, legendary, and profane; and they adopted the almost indispensable plan of

* Pole 131. Chapple's Risdon 171. Polwhele 331. Lysons 324.

† Oliver's Exeter. 83 note.

entering transcripts of all their grants, leases, and other legal documents in a chartulary or volume appropriated to the purpose. Many of the abbies kept records or annals of their own proceedings, and these often contained references of greater or less importance to the public events of the period. Thus many facts relating to the early history of this country have been gleaned from the incidental notices contained in the registers of monasteries, in addition to the professedly historical compilations made by the more learned among the monks.

Of the private records of Newenham four separate volumes were compiled at various periods. The earliest of these in point of date is a register, which is preserved in the library of the British Museum. This curious volume is written on vellum, and contains fifty-nine folios: the greater part of its contents appear to have been compiled soon after the year 1330, but additions have been made to it at subsequent periods. On the first page appears the name "John Long," and on the third folio "William Howarde 1589," with the impress of the Royal Society "Soc. Reg. Lond. ex dono Henr' Howard Norfolciensi." It came in all probability into the possession of the Howard family with the grant of the abbey lands, and, having been one in the valuable collection of manuscripts formed by Lord William Howard at Naworth

castle, was presented among others to the Royal Society in 1666, by his nephew Henry Howard, afterwards Duke of Norfolk and Earl of Arundel. It is bound, and lettered on the back "Norf. MSS. 17. Regist. abb. de Nyweh." and was transferred to the library of the British Museum from that of the Royal Society by an authorised interchange of books and manuscripts between those institutions.*

The next of the Newenham records to be mentioned, is a volume which was referred to by a writer of the fifteenth century, but is not known to be now in existence. William Botoner, commonly known by the name of William of Worcester, visited the abbey, and his itinerary or memorandum book, written about the year 1470, records among other things, several extracts from one of their books, which he calls, oddly enough, a martyrology. It seems to have been an obituary or a register of the death-days of persons connected in some way or other with the abbey, but it contained also notices of other matters.†

Another register book will be found referred to in a foregoing page, on an examination of one of

* For an abstract of the contents of this register, see the Appendix No. XI.

† See the Appendix, No. XII.

the quondam monks, relative to the forgeries imputed to the last abbot. This volume contained the entries of all leases of the conventual estates granted a year and more before the dissolution, and was then supposed to be in the exchequer. There it probably still remains, among the numerous and valuable records yet to be arranged, for we have no account of its having been brought to light since that period.

The most valuable of all the sources from which we have derived assistance in this account of the monastery of Newenham now only remains to be referred to. This is a chartulary which contains a great variety and extent of information relative to the abbey and its possessions, and is the same volume which is stated by bishop Tanner, in his "Notitia Monastica," to have been, in the year 1606, in the possession of Robert Rolle, of Heanton-Sachville in this county, esq. Sir William Pole, in his "Collections," also mentions it as belonging to that gentleman, and his name appears written on the inside of the cover. This interesting relic was purchased some years ago for a trivial sum of money, by the late William Wavell, esq. of Barnstaple, M. D. at whose decease, in 1828, it was sold by his executors for the sum of twelve guineas, and after passing through the hands of several booksellers, rested at length in the very extensive and valuable library

of Sir Thomas Phillipps, baronet, at Middle Hill, in Worcestershire.

Several transcripts of this manuscript in whole or in part are known to be in existence. Tanner mentions one as in the possession of Sir Henry St. George, Garter King of Arms, and another in the library of his learned friend, John Anstis, esq. Garter King of Arms, who had also a volume of extracts from one of the registers of Newenham, made by Francis Thynne. This last may be the volume of extracts with the names of the abbots now in the Bodleian library.* Sir William Pole had access to the original in the year 1606, and transcribed the charters of lands and privileges into his large volume of deeds and grants which is now in the possession of his descendant Sir William Templer Pole, of Shute, baronet.† A transcript of part of the chartulary taken in 1607, is among the ancient evidences made over by Lord Petre to the late Mr. Frampton; and to these may be added a transcript of the whole in the writer's possession, made by permission of the late Doctor Wavell, in 1827.

The original manuscript, which is in excellent preservation, is on parchment, and in general legi-

* Dodsworth, vol. lv. fol. 50.

† Prince's Worthies of Devon, ed. 1810, p. 638.

bly written, with the titles of the grants, deeds, and several articles, in red ink, but these titles it is evident have been added at another time, and by a careless or an ignorant writer, for they are in several instances misplaced, being prefixed interchangeably to articles to which they do not relate. The volume consists of 134 leaves; the numbers of the folios commence on the fourth leaf and extend to 122, but the numbers from 80 to 89 have been by mistake repeated. The precise date of the manuscript is not given, but it is clear from internal evidence that it was compiled during the abbacy of Walter de la Houe, in the reign of King Edward the third. One or two deeds however, and a few miscellaneous notices have been added at different periods down to the reign of Henry the sixth. It appears by an introductory note to have been the object of the abbot to unite in one volume all the several bulls, grants, and charters, relating to the privileges of the Cistercian order in general, as well as to the property of his abbey in particular, and this being accomplished, the book became a convenient vehicle for such notes and memoranda relative to the former proceedings of the community as could be collected. It therefore partakes of the character of a register as well as of a chartulary, for the additions to the deeds and evidences consist of a chronological series of the abbots down to the

time of its compilation, with their several acquisitions of property, and a variety of local information, dates, pedigrees, and other historical notices, both civil and ecclesiastical. Among these we have extracts from Domesday book, and many other particulars relating to the extent, rights, and jurisdictions of the hundred and manor of Axminster, with several instruments relative to the advowson; a notice of a grant from the crown of the manor and church of Thorncombe to the abbey of Ford, an inquisition on a writ of "ad quod damnum" relative to lands to be granted to the same abbey, and several instruments relating to the manor of Roridge, in Upottery. Other memoranda give us the names of the justices itinerant at various periods. Among the affairs relating to the abbey itself, we have a description of the lands exempted from tithes in consequence of being in their own cultivation, situated at Gorham, Shapwick, Bevor, Furslegh, and Breweshays, and a particular description with the admeasurement of the several meadows in the occupation of the abbot and convent at home, extending to fifty four acres and a quarter, which were mown yearly at the cost of $3\frac{1}{2}$ d an acre.

Among the matters of general and historical information, written, some in Latin and some in French, we are presented with a list of the twelve peers of France, consisting of four bishops, four

dukes, and four counts, with the abbot of St. Denys as their clerk. Another also of the kings of France, commencing thus, "Ly premiers Roys q'unques fust en france ap's la destruction de Troie si ont noun Faramons," and ending with Lewis the son of Philip the second in 1223; but it differs materially from the acknowledged historians. The same may be said of a list of the early kings of England, accompanied by a sketch of the principal events of each reign. It is interspersed with the usual legendary tales, and contains nothing new or worthy of notice, if we except the following account of the great Alfred's division of his time and property, which varies in some points from the usual statement by historians. It is thus introduced, and we need not be surprised that the monkish writer should designate such a devotion of time and money a strange mode of life. "Cist reis mena est'aunge vie si la v'e dirrai." The twenty-four hours of the day and night he divided into three equal portions, eight hours he spent in writing, reading, and prayer; eight were passed in needful repose; and eight he devoted to the affairs of his kingdom: the rents of his lands were equally divided, one moiety was then subdivided into three portions, with one of which the king rewarded the officers of his court, with another he paid his work-people, and the third he gave to foreigners in dis-

tress; the other moiety he divided into four parts, one of which he distributed to the poor of his realm, another was devoted to poor abbies, a third he bestowed on poor clerks, and with the fourth he relieved the wants of poor churches beyond the sea. It may be observed that in this record, the king usually styled Edred, bears the name of Ethelred, and that Edwy is registered as Edelwene or Edwin, thus corroborating the assertion of the learned historian of the Anglo-Saxons, that the latter was his real name. This sketch of English history, which terminates with the deposition of Edward the second, and the accession of his son, is closed in the following devotional strain, “Ap’s coe ke le dit Rei rendi sus sa corone a Kenningworze su’ fiz Edward de Wyndesore come’sa a Regner et a gouverner su’ peple a ky deu si luy plest pa sa g’ant pite ly doyne plus de ioye de su’ reume ke vnke su’ per naueit. Amen pa charite.”

Among other matters we are also favoured with a summary of the astronomical knowledge of the period. It is introduced by a comparison which, as it is not easily translated, may be copied verbatim from the original, “Forma terr’s est rotunda v’a & orbis est dicta si eni’ quis in aer po’itus eam desup’ inspic’et tota enormitas mont’m & co’cauitas vall’m in ea apparere’t q’am digit’s alicui’s si palu’ p’s g’ndem in manu teneret.” We are then

told that the circumference of the earth is 180000 measured stadii, that it is the middle of the world as a point in the centre of a circle, and that it is supported by no fulcrum, but is upheld by divine power. From the earth to the moon we learn that the distance is 15525 miles, from the moon to Mercury 7812, from thence to Venus the same, from Venus to the sun 23436 miles, from the sun to Mars 15625, from thence to Jupiter 7812, and the same from Jupiter to Saturn. From Saturn to the firmament the distance is 23436 miles, so that the whole distance from earth to heaven is 109375 miles, “su’t ita p’ a t’ra vsq’ ad celu’ miliaria c milia et ix et cclxxv miliaria.” On adding the sums together we shall find that the learned writer does not account for 105 miles of his total distance.

At folio 119 the dates of the years are stated in which some of the numerous orders of monks were established, and it is said that the Cluniacs began in 412,* the Arosians in 1083,† the Carthusians in 1096, the Cistercians in 1098, the Premonstratensians in 1120, the Dominican or preaching Friars in 1200, and the Minor Friars in 1210. It is also noted that the abbey of Beaulieu was founded

* This must be an error, as the Cluniac reformation of the Benedictine order commenced in 912, and it may be observed that almost all the dates here given are at variance with other authorities.

† This title appears to refer to the Valombrosians.

on the 1st of June, 1204. We have likewise a list of the monasteries of the Cistercian order in England and Wales, amounting to eighty-three, with the parent establishments from which they emanated. It appears by two entries in this volume that the Cardinals, probably the legates, enjoyed occasional payments called exhibitions from the religious houses, if not from any other sources in this country, for it is stated that when the cardinal had an exhibition of four pence in the mark, the payment from Newenham was 13s 0¼d, and in another place that the cardinal's exhibition of four pence in the mark amounted in the province of Canterbury alone to £6552 8s 2½d. We are further told that the tithes of England and Wales amounted to £20,862 2s 4½, those of Scotland to £4947 19s 8d, and of Ireland to £1600 16s 4d. It is also noted that there were at that period in England and Wales 45,000 parish churches. We are informed lastly that while the whole number of knight's fees in England was 63,215, no less than 28,015 or considerably more than a third part were in the hands of the religious. This it must be observed was at a period about two centuries before the reformation, and if the ecclesiastical benefices in the possession of the monasteries be taken into the account, with the value of the tithes, from the payment of which the monks were exempted, some

idea may be formed of the immense absorption of the national wealth by the monastic orders. Nearly one half of England indeed is said to have been in their possession, and in some countries of Europe even a greater proportion.*

On a review of the particulars which have been obtained respecting this monastery from the registers of its property and proceedings, it is impossible not to be struck with the total inconsistency which they present to the avowed principles and practice of a religious community. The Cistercians professed the Benedictine rule in all its strictness and without any mitigation; devotion to God, poverty, fasting, prayers, and labour, were the ostensible character of their profession; but here we see nothing but what is altogether secular and luxurious. Their houses were, it is true, with all their corruptions, the centres of a certain degree of learning, civilization, and refinement, and the monks were greatly instrumental in extending the practice of agriculture; but, an accumulation of wealth, a large establishment of both sexes within their walls, a profanation of the Lord's day by the common routine of business, and the cultivation of lands to the extent of nearly 1700 acres† attest the

* Hallam's Middle Ages, ii. 209.

† By a schedule annexed to the agreement for the commutation of Tithes in the parish of Axminster, dated on the 29th

worldly nature of their occupations; and nothing appears to controvert the opinions which have been recorded of the Cistercians that avarice was the great vice of their order. They are said to have been extensive dealers in wool and other produce, generally very ignorant, and in fact farmers more than monks.*

The buildings of Newenham abbey were demolished soon after its surrender into the king's hands,† and it is probable that the materials were sold, as were those of most of the other monasteries; but in what way soever they were disposed of, the work of destruction went rapidly forwards, for the author of "The Worthies of Devon," writing about the year 1690, states that in his time there was hardly left standing one stone upon another.‡ Heaps of rubbish, overgrown with turf, and some masses of wall, which resist the hand of the spoiler by the firmness of their structure, serve yet to point out the extent

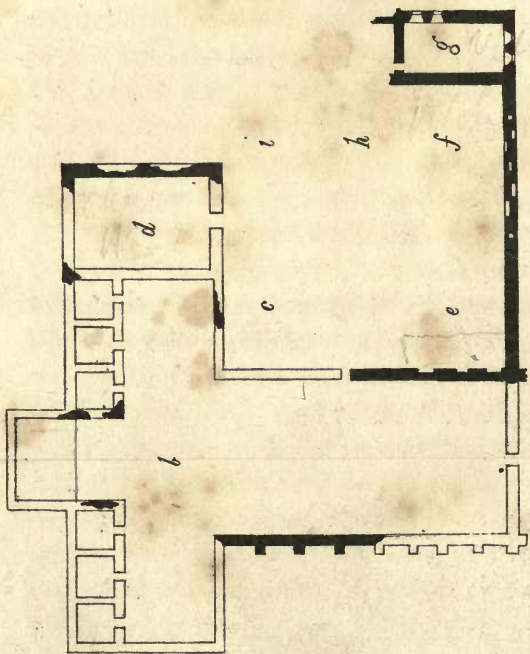
of May, 1838, it was determined that the total quantity of land in the parish exempted from those charges, as having been in the occupation of the abbey of Newenham, is 1696 acres and 11 perches.

* British Monachism, 113.

† To this event may probably be referred the following memorandum, in a coeval hand, which appears on the last leaf of the chartulary. "The entrey was mad at Newham the xvij day of December in the p'sens of Thomas Haydon and Robert Drake of Sudlye gentelmen." Robert Drake of Southleigh was the son of John Drake, who with John Haydon had been auditor of of the conventual estates.

‡ Ed. 1810. p. 82. Prince was born at Newenham, and a sketch of his life will be found at the close of this volume.





a

GROUND PLAN. NEWNHAM ABBEY.

of the erections ; while a few fragments which have been discovered, in addition to the slight notices handed down to us in writing, confirm the opinion that the buildings resembled others of the same period in their style of architecture, and were not inferior to them in their minor decorations. The accompanying ground plan, (Plate III.) which has been completed with some expense of time and labour, delineates the foundations of as many of the walls as can now be traced.* On some future occasion perhaps the value of the materials buried here may induce a removal of the rubbish, when further light may be thrown on the disposition of the buildings, and some discoveries made which will be interesting to the antiquary. What these erections actually were in their architectural features need not be left entirely to conjecture, for the following facts have been ascertained, and with these scanty intimations we must, however unwillingly, rest contented. The eastern window of the ancient chapel, as shewn in Plate I, at the front of this volume, and now almost the only remaining relic, speaks for itself: the simplicity of its design, three lancet lights of unequal height under one

* In this plan ; a, represents the ancient Chapel—b, the Church—c, the Cloister quadrangle—d, the Chapter House—e, probably the Abbot's lodging—f, the Kitchen—g, the Refectory—h, the Infirmary—and i, the Lavatory.

arch, the absence of cusps and mouldings, with the massiveness of the building, and its corner buttresses as they appear in the ground-plan, attest the date of its erection, and point decisively to the middle of the thirteenth century when the abbey was founded.

The church of Newenham abbey was a magnificent structure, and as a conspicuous object must have been highly ornamental to the vale of the Axe, adding greatly to the picturesque effect of the scenery when viewed from the surrounding hills. It was about thirty years in building; the ground was opened for the foundation in the year 1248, and it was finished about 1280. Bronescombe bishop of Exeter contributed no less than six hundred marks, or £400, towards the erection, a magnificent sum in those days; and a hundred marks were paid annually by Sir Reginald de Mohun, the founder of the abbey, during his life. The stone was a free gift from the quarries of Sir John de Staunton. The dimensions also attest the consequence of the edifice; its total length was 280 feet, of which the nave was 200, and the choir 80, while the transept measured 152;* and if we would

* "Longitudo ecclesiæ de Nēwnam continet 100 steppys, et ejus latitudo, videlicet brachiorum, continet 76 steppys, et longitudo chori continet 40 steppys." Itin. Will. de Worcestre, 92. It has been ascertained that one of his steps was equal to two feet.

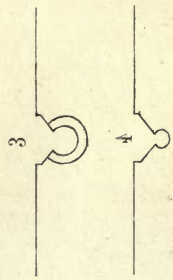
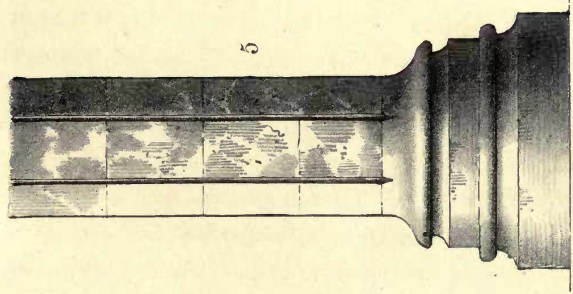
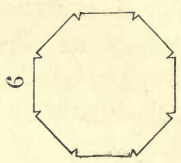
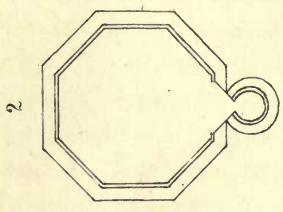
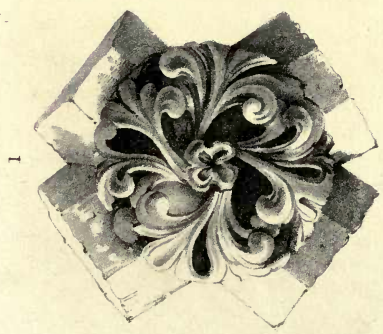
indulge the imagination with a picture of this building in its perfect state, we may judge of the style in which it was erected by a reference to the noble structure of the cathedral church at Salisbury, or to the interesting remains at Letley, afterwards called Netley, abbey in Hampshire. These buildings were of the same period; Letley, a monastery of the Cistercian order, founded in 1232, was, like Newenham, an emanation from Beaulieu, and beautiful as are its remains to the present day, it may be observed that not being so rich, it had not the resources for a magnificent erection which were possessed by Newenham.* On comparing the abbey church of the latter, with the cathedral church at Salisbury, we may reasonably conclude that although on a far inferior scale as to its dimensions, in its style of building it assimilated in a great degree to that noble structure. Agreeing as they do in point of date, it is remarkable that Alice de Mohun, the mother of the founder of Newenham, and a generous benefactor to it, gave the stone for twelve years towards building that of Salisbury, and as she was living at the time, she was doubtless interested in the erection of both. The architect's name of

* The possessions of Letley were valued at the dissolution at £160 2s 9½d per annum.

Newenham, Walter de Boreham,* assimilates closely to that of Elias de Berham, the architect of Salisbury;† they were perhaps kinsmen, and it is not improbable that the design of the abbey church was founded on that of the cathedral which was then nearly completed. Nor is the opinion of the similarity of the two buildings in point of style, even in the minuter details, entirely conjectural, for on a view of the cathedral we shall perceive that the groining of the roof is of very simple form, being merely a single intersection over each compartment, centering in a foliated boss, and having an intervening rib. Such was also the construction of the roof at the abbey church, as may be concluded by the discovery among the ruins of numerous portions of the groining, all precisely similar in shape; and especially by the design of one of the central bosses which was met with six feet below the present surface, on making an excavation close to the site of the church. By the accompanying representation (Plate IV. fig. 1,) we shall perceive the simple mode in which the ribs diverge from the centre, and shall recognise in it a fac-simile of

* Chart fol. 4. The name of the builder also appears, “Mag’ro Joh’e Puleberg’s cementar’s” fol. 25.

† Britton’s Architect. Antiq. V. App. ii.—Michael Berham, Chancellor to the Archbishop of Canterbury, was a donor of 100s towards the fabric of Exeter Cathedral in 1310. Britton’s Ex. Cathedr. 90.





many of those which now retain their places at Salisbury. It may be observed also that while the material principally used in the building at Newenham was a light-coloured free-stone, there have been found many fragments of shafts in a dark stone, probably from Purbeck, about four inches and a half in diameter, with circular capitals and bases;* these correspond in every respect with the numerous and elegant detached shafts which form so remarkable a feature in the designs both at Salisbury and Letley. At the depth of seven feet from the surface also, the lower parts of two octagonal columns with circular bases, were found, of unusual shape, which probably supported the groining of a crypt.† Many other fragments of stone have been discovered which serve to show the general correspondence in the style of the building, as to its ornamental details, with other edifices of the same date, as also some minute portions of stained glass, and a number of glazed tiles, mostly of a yellow colour, which in all probability formed the pavement. The church was dedicated to the

* See Plate IV. where fig. 2 is a plan of the base of a column with its attached shaft, found on the floor of the church, and figs. 3 and 4 are plans of shafts placed alternately against the north wall.

† See Plate IV. figs. 5 and 6. Fig. 6 is a section of the column 5, shewing the mode in which its angles are cut away, in an unusual manner, in the form of a groove or moulding.

blessed Virgin on the 6th of July, 1250. The high altar was consecrated on the 16th of October, 1277, and as no altar could be dedicated without relics,* some thorns which bore the character of having once belonged to our Lord's crown, were used for that purpose at Newenham: the day of their translation, as it is termed, but which was probably that of their removal from some depository of such commodities, was the 11th of August.† At the front of the high altar was placed a tablet, "tabula," adorned with six images, the gift of William de Hameldon the eighth abbot of Beaulieu;‡ and near to it, an image of the virgin Mary was set up, which had been bestowed on the convent by abbot Peter de Chichester, the seventh who held that rank at Beaulieu. Six altars stood likewise in other parts of the church, three on each side, for which, as already stated, the convent were indebted

* There was a small stone called "sigillum altaris" by which the aperture for insertion of the relics was closed up by mortar tempered with holy water. Enc. Antiq. 94.

† Itin. Will. Worc. 90.

‡ "Dedit nob' tabula' sex imaginibz ornata', ad magn' altar' huj' eccles'." Regist. fol. 50. It is not quite clear from the brief notice of this ornamental piece of furniture, whether it was a kind of screen affixed to the wall above the altar, or a frame or tablet placed in front of it, below the slab. It appears from Du Cange that the latter was the usual meaning of the "tabula," which was sometimes wrought in gold or silver and highly enriched or embossed. The altar screen was designated "tablatura" in the accounts relating to Exeter Cathedral. Britton, p. 90.

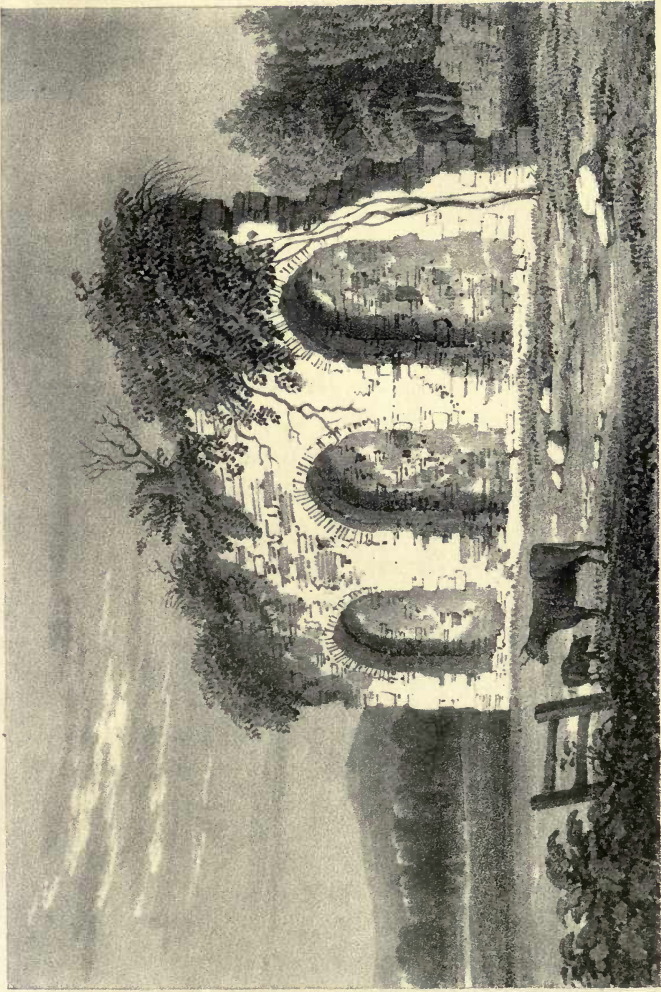
to the munificence of bishop Bronescombe. The precise situations of these altars are not pointed out, but it is not improbable that they were placed in side chapels on the east of the transepts, of which there are traces of foundations as shown in the ground-plan. Of the peal of bells which hung in the tower, one only is expressly mentioned, and it was called the Grandisson in honour of the bishop of Exeter of that name, who gave ten marks towards its purchase. Beneath the floor of the church were deposited the bodies of many distinguished individuals, who were in one way or other connected with the abbey. The whole breadth of the choir was occupied by a series of interments disposed in regular order. Of these, the first on the south side of the altar against the wall, and near the seats of the ministers, was the body of Sir Giles de Cancellis, the donor of Plenynt to the abbey; next him lay Sir William de Mohun, one of the founders, and then his brother Sir Reginald, whose remains occupied a spot near the officiating deacon's station. Close to his father, under a small stone, was deposited the heart of Sir John de Mohun, whose body was buried at Bruton; and next to it the remains of Sir William de Mohun of Ottery-Mohun, his half brother: lastly against the north wall of the choir, lay Sir Nicholas Bonville, a benefactor to the abbey, who died in 1266. The bodies of several

other individuals of the Bonville family were buried in the nave, and in the centre of the choir between them and the high altar, immediately before the great cross, lay the remains of the wealthy and munificent Sir William Bonville of Shute, who died in 1407, and those of Alice his second wife.

In the south wall of the church, a door opened, as usual in monastic buildings, to the cloister quadrangle, which appears to have been square, and its covered walk to have comprised four arches, or compartments, "panella," on each side. These were erected at different periods, but the references in the chartulary and register to this part of the conventual buildings are only incidental and do not enable us to judge of its actual dimensions.* The cloisters were the burial place of several of the abbots, whose remains were uniformly interred beneath that portion which they had been instrumental in erecting. The chapter house was placed as usual on the eastern side of the cloisters, the kitchen on the west, and the entrance to the latter was under the fourth arch from the church; near this was the door of the refectory,† and on the south side the lavatory and the infirmary.

* See Plate V, which represents a portion of the ruined wall of the cloister.

† Plate VI, fig. 1, is one of the yet remaining windows of the refectory.



On Stone by W. Sproat.

RUINS. NEWNHAM ABBEY.

About the year 1314 a dome is stated to have been placed upon the kitchen, which meant a covering for the opening in the roof through which the smoke escaped, but before 1338 a vaulted roof was erected, probably somewhat in the style of the kitchen yet remaining at Glastonbury abbey.

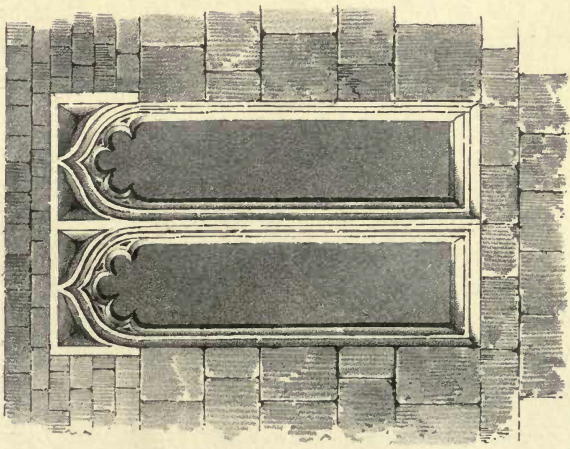
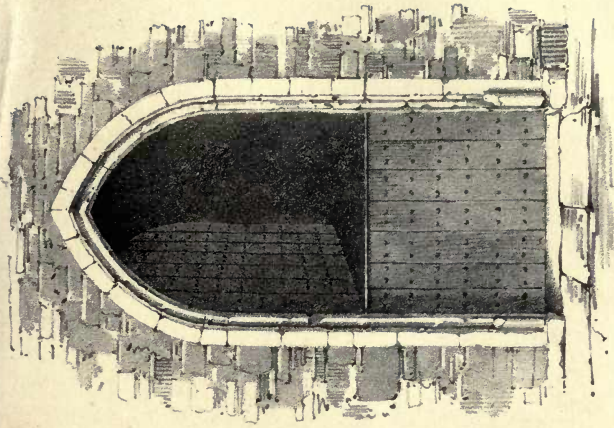
Part of the ground on which the abbey stood is now occupied by a small farm house and its offices, which have been erected against the main wall on the western side of the cloisters, and some of the conventual buildings are supposed to have extended further westward towards the river Axe, but these have wholly disappeared, and if we might offer a conjecture as to the destiny of a great part of the materials, it would be that they were appropriated to the erection of the neighbouring mansion-house at Ash, upon an estate belonging to John Drake, who had been one of the auditors of the conventual property, and was then a lessee of the abbey granges. This gentleman had gained the estate of Ash by an action at law in 1526, and it thenceforwards became the principal demesne and residence of his family. The mansion was afterwards destroyed by fire in the civil war, but in the inferior parts of the now existing dwelling, there are some doorways and windows in a style corresponding with that of the abbey buildings. Many of the neighbouring farm houses shared probably in the plunder, and during the last century large quantities of stone

have been taken to the town of Axminster from the ruins: among these a doorway with the plain but elegant pointed arch of the thirteenth century may be observed at a shop on the south side of the church-yard,* and a similar arch of early date forms a doorway in the garden of a private house. Within the memory of man several lofty walls were standing which are now demolished, and the work of destruction has proceeded to the almost entire removal of the ancient chapel, which was one of the earliest of the buildings; for, as Dr. Johnson said, walls supply stones more easily than quarries, and palaces and temples will be demolished to build stables and cottages.

At a short distance from the ruins, on the south, stand some remains of the abbey barn, which was evidently erected at a late period of the existence of the monastery: it was ninety four feet in length by thirty in width, and being capable of appropriation to a useful purpose, was spared from destruction, and remained in tolerable preservation until the year 1797, when some damp hay within it ignited, and the roof with all the combustible parts were consumed.

Two facts connected with the ruins of the abbey may be noted here, as they are better attested than such tales are usually found to be.

* See Plate VI, fig. 2 for a sketch of this doorway.



On Stone by W. Sprat.

REMAINS OF NEWENHAM ABBEY.



About seventy years ago a man sauntering among the ancient remains, and idly throwing stones at one of the lofty walls then standing, beheld to his joy and surprise a piece of money fall from the spot which had been struck; procuring a ladder and mounting the wall, he discovered a sum hidden there which he carefully secured, and which was large enough to become the foundation of a very lucrative business in the town of Axminster. Another discovery of a different nature was made on removing the wall at the western end of the building which is marked g in the plan in Plate III. A little above the level of the ground, in the middle of the wall, which was of considerable thickness, were observed four stones set upright on their edges, with another as a cover; and within this rude coffin were found the bones of an infant child.* So unusual a place of sepulture may readily excite suspicion of some foul misdeed in connexion with these remains, but whatever the fact, the mystery must continue such till the great day, when the secrets of all hearts shall be revealed.

* This circumstance may call to mind the lines of "Marmion"—

"Some traveller then shall find my bones,
Whitening amid disjointed stones,
And, ignorant of priest's cruelty,
Marvel such relics here should be."

with the note on the immuring of recreant nuns, and the instance of a skeleton found in a wall at Coldingham.

Every known record and relic has now been brought forward of Newenham abbey,* an establishment the influence of which has entirely passed away, and the name of which is almost forgotten, while little more than a vestige can be traced of a mass of extensive, and no doubt beautiful buildings, the scenes of alternate business, pleasure, and devotion.

The middle ages have been often stigmatized as an æra of ignorance and barbarism, but how great soever the ignorance of the laity, and the prevailing corruption of all classes, it must be granted to the credit of the monasteries, that what little learning existed was preserved in them. They were the depositories of nearly all the books and manuscripts which time had spared till then, and which at the dissolution were consigned to almost indiscriminate destruction. The libraries belonging to some of the monasteries were extensive and valuable, and Leland's report must not be made the criterion for judging of the state of conventual

* It has been said that there were some monastical buildings in Colyton belonging to Newenham Abbey, one a chantry adjoining to the town, and another a nunnery at Nunford, on the river Axe. "The chantry of St. John the Evangelist at Colcombe" occurs in the episcopal registers, and in an old manuscript is mentioned "the chapel of St. Theobald demolished, in the parish of Colyton." See Polwhele's *Devon*, ii, 315, but there does not seem to be any existing evidence of the connection of either of these foundations with Newenham.

literature.* He was appointed by the crown to investigate the literary property of the monasteries, but his exertions were too late and his time too limited to obtain the requisite information, and the greater portions of the monastic libraries had disappeared before the attention of the crown had been sufficiently drawn to their value and importance. Ford abbey in Devonshire, for instance, was in high repute for learning, but Leland mentions only eleven or twelve books as composing its library. At Dunkeswell only one is recorded, and at Newenham not any.†

The monks were our equals in some of the useful, and many of the ornamental arts, and especially they have left us a style of architecture which no subsequent age has been able to improve or even to rival. It was on their churches that they lavished all their exquisite combination of design, their persevering labour, and elaborate ornament, and it is impossible to avoid a feeling of regret at the

* See Du Cange, v. "Scriptores." A folio Latin Bible in the writer's possession once belonged to a monk of Reading abbey. The numerous manuscript annotations in the margins prove that its owner devoted some time to its study, and the following curious announcement on the title page evinces that he valued it. "Hic est liber fr'is Joh'is de Burghilbury monachi Rading' qui celaucrit v'l fraude' de eo fecerit anathema sit. Amen.

† Of this abbey Leland mentions only the name. "Newnam. Axus flu' præterlabitur, et in mare se exonerat apud Axmouth." *Collectanea* iv. 150.

destruction of so many of the splendid specimens of architecture which adorned the country; but it is at the same time difficult to say to what purpose buildings so extensive could be appropriated in rural and thinly peopled districts already provided with parochial churches sufficiently large for the inhabitants; or by what funds they could be maintained, after the superstitions which raised and supported them had been dissipated by the light of divine truth. In many towns indeed the conventual churches were preserved, and it is out of place to regret that more of them do not exist for the benefit of the present generation, unless the wants induced by the unexampled increase of population during three centuries could have been anticipated and provided for by a foresight more than human. It is nevertheless to be regretted that the interests of architectural science and of literature were not regarded; and still more is it to be lamented that the dissolution of the monasteries, however right in principle and laudable in policy, should not have been more just and discriminate in the mode of its execution, and have been distinguished by a more extended provision for the instruction of the people; but in this as in all violent changes, the suggestions of the wise and good were overborne by the clamours of the prejudiced and self-interested.

It now only remains to give some distinct

account of the conventual granges, and the estates in Cornwall, and to conclude with the biographical notices referred to in the foregoing pages.

THE NEWENHAM DEMESNE.

The history of the lands around the abbey, which the monks retained in their own occupation, has been already traced in this work. Many of the fields are separately mentioned in the chartulary, but the name *BOVERIA* was given to the whole demesne. It is believed to have comprised about 397 acres of land of the best quality.

SHAPWICK.

The estate known by this name is situated four miles from the town of Axminster towards the south, and although it forms a part of that parish, is entirely insulated, being separated from it by portions of Musbury, Coombe Pyne, and Uplyme. It has been dignified with the titles of a manor and a lordship, but has no pretensions to either, having from the earliest times formed a part of the manor of Axminster. Its name intimates the existence of a habitation here at a very early period, being the Anglo-Saxon "Wic," a home, hamlet or village, with the prefix Shap from "Scep," a sheep, implying that the lands were appropriated chiefly to the pasture of flocks.

The earliest mention which we find of the lands of Shapwick is about the year 1200, when various portions of them were held under the manor of Axminster, by William Russell, Richard Mercator, David Swete, and others. The estate held by Russell, comprising a carucate, or ploughland, and a half, was afterwards granted by William Brewer, then lord of the manor, to one Richard de Burton, by a deed which, though without date, must have been executed before 1231, and by which a yearly rent of 8s 11d was reserved from it in lieu of all services and demands, except the king's service, and a tallage when the lord or his heirs should tax his free guild of Axminster, "Q'ndo ego v'l hered' mei talliam's lib'um consiliu' meu' de Axeministr'."

The lands held by Richard Mercator came afterwards into the possession of Alinna de Cruce and Ildreda her sister. The former of these ladies with her two daughters Edelma and Alicia, and the latter with her son Roger, conveyed their estates to the same Richard de Burton abovementioned. From Richard the lands passed to Henry de Burton, who with Mabilla his wife, in consideration of the sum of thirty-five marks of new and lawful sterling, conveyed them to the abbot and convent of Newenham. This transfer was confirmed by an agreement between the parties made in

the court at Exeter on the morrow of the Ascension (14th of May,) 1249, before the justices itinerant Roger de Thurkelby, Gilbert de Preston, Master Simon de Wauton, and John de Cobbeigh, by which the abbot and convent were further bound to pay a pair of white gloves annually, on the feast of St. John the baptist, in lieu of all services and demands.

Shortly after this Henry de Burton charitably conveyed in frank almoigne "to the blessed Mary and the abbot and convent of Newenham," the whole of his meadow at Shapwick called Burton's mead, lying on the north side of Pleysiword, for the soul's health of his father and mother and all his ancestors and descendants. The extent of the land thus bestowed is not mentioned, nor is that of some lands which the abbot and convent also obtained about the same time at the cost of 46s 8d of Reginald son of David Swete of Shapwick, being the estate which he had inherited from his father.

In addition to the lands already mentioned at this place, an estate which had been alienated from the manor of Axminster, probably in the time of Lord Brewer, was in the possession of a family named "de Shapwick." A deed executed at Axminster on the Lord's day after the feast of St. Dunstan, (25th of May,) 1242, is entered in the abbey chartulary, by which Sir Reginald de Mohun, lord of the

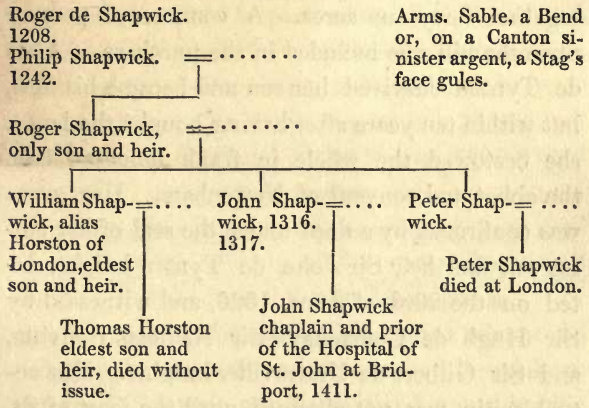
manor of Axminster, for the sum of one mark, remits to Philip de Shapwick the annual payment of eleven pence which he had been accustomed to make out of his lands at Shapwick, in lieu of grinding his corn at the lord's mill: this instrument refers also to a former deed by Lord Brewer, which had been committed for safe custody to the charge of the prior of Dunkeswell.

Shortly after this, the manor of Axminster became the property of the abbot and convent of Newenham, who were desirous of completing their possession of the estate at Shapwick by the purchase of the remaining lands there. Sir Reginald, the founder and patron of the abbey, concurred in their design, and in accordance with the charitable intentions of his mother, as expressed in her will, bestowed upon them the sum of sixty marks for that express purpose.*

The lands of Philip de Shapwick had descended, at the beginning of the fourteenth century, to John of the same name, as appears by the following short pedigree of the family. This has been preserved in the Augmentation office in the form of a certificate, after an investigation made by the abbot of Newenham, Sir Nicholas Hele

* The provisions of a deed executed on this occasion will be found mentioned under the abbacy of Henry de Persolte.

knight, Sir John Cokesdon, knight, and John Vowell, clerk, on the part of John Shapwick, prior of St John's Hospital at Bridport. The document, which is dated at Axminster on the 2nd of February, 1411, and sealed by the parties, states that the "pedicru" in substance as follows, was the result of an examination of many deeds, and of enquiry among old and respectable men.* The first name and the respective dates have been added on the authority of the chartulary of Newenham.



On the 19th of October, 1316, John Shapwick granted about twenty acres of arable, divided into no less than nine enclosures, to Alice de Tynten and John her second son, for the term of their lives. The names and dimensions of these

* Madox. Formulæ Anglicanum, 15.
K 2

fields are carefully entered in the chartulary with the following introductory notice. "It'm sciat' q'd no'i'a illar' acrar' infrascript' su't valde n't'cia et sepe ibi int' vicinos it'anda ne tradant' obliuioni." One of them called Smalferse is stated to abut on the royal way, "Regiam viam," leading from Lyme to Colyford.* On the 10th of March, 1317, these lands were conveyed to the same lady and her son in perpetuity, as were soon after, twenty one acres more, in ten enclosures, making together forty-one acres. A common of pasture upon the hill was included in the purchase. Alice de Tynten survived her son and became his heir, but within ten years after having bought the lands, she bestowed the whole in frank almoigne upon the abbot and convent of Newenham. Her grant was confirmed by a deed under the seal of her eldest son and heir Sir John de Tynten knight, dated on the 23rd of June, 1326, and witnessed by Sir Hugh de Courtenay, Sir Nicholas Bonville, and Sir Gilbert de Umfraville, knights. But actual seisin was not obtained until the feast of St. Katherine, (25th of November) in the year 1333, when in pursuance of a letter of attorney, directed to William Dare "capellanus," by Alice de Tynten, the abbot and convent were placed in full and

* See the "British and Roman Remains at Axminster," where this is mentioned as one of the great Roman Roads.

peaceable possession. The registrar who transcribed the deeds into the chartulary, states that he himself was present on the occasion.

Of the respectable family who possessed these lands for so short a period, nothing is stated by the genealogists of the county of Devon, and they do not appear to have been owners of any other property within it. They were probably the same who were lords of the manor of Tinten, and residents in the parish of Saint Tudy in the county of Cornwall.* The few particulars of their pedigree which follow, have been gathered from the transcripts of the deeds relating to these lands.

Sir John de Tynten knight	=	Alice in 1316, 1333. Lady of Calweheye. Heir of her second son.	Widow	Arms. Argent, a Chevron between three Tents sable.
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Sir John de Tynten
knight, eldest son
and heir. 1326.

John de Tynten, clerk, 1316,
1322. Canon of Penrhyn, lord
of Calweheye. Died before
his mother and brother.

Thus the entire estate of Shapwick became the property of the abbot and convent of Newenham, and from this time nearly till the dissolution, the greater part, if not the whole, of the lands were held in their own occupation. One of the brethren was deputed to superintend the concerns of the farm; he dwelt at the grange, "hospitalitem tenuit," paid

* Whitaker's Cathedral of Cornwall, ii, 253. See also Lysons' Cornwall, clii and 314.

the labourers, kept the accounts, and transmitted the proceeds of the estate to his superior. One of the monks who filled the office here, bore the name of John de Shapwick, and succeeded another as custos of their manors in Cornwall, which, as it was an office of great trust, and further removed from the superintendance of the abbot, was considered as an honourable promotion. Very little is said either in the chartulary or the register of the abbey, respecting the conventual granges as such, and indeed reference is very infrequent to the secular employments of the fraternity although so multifarious and extensive. All that we gather relative to this farm is the extent and description of the lands, which, being in their own occupation, were exempt from tithes; and the incidental notice that the annual value of the tithe of corn produced at this place was five marks, and sometimes five and a half. We are told indeed that abbot Walter, about the year 1350, enclosed the farm premises at Shapwick with a sunk fence, “op’e fossario.”

In the *Valor ecclesiasticus* of 1535, of which we have spoken before, as well as in the valuation by the Commissioners for the crown revenues dated in 1540, the annual value of Shapwick grange was estimated at £20, but this was a reserved rent upon a lease.

After the dissolution, the lands of Shapwick remained in the possession of the crown until the

12th of February, 1563, when they were granted with the other conventual property to the duke of Norfolk. They were then in the tenure of Richard and Robert Drake, who with their father John Drake, esq. of Ash, had been joint tenants on a lease granted on the 31st of December, 1535, at the rent of £20. It appears also by a survey taken in 1581, that the same persons continued then to hold the estate, as they did also two others of the abbey farms.

On the 7th of June, 1605, this property again exchanged its owner, being sold by Lord William Howard with the manor of Axminster, to Lord Petre, and on a survey of the manor in 1607, the names of Sir William Pole, knight, and John Drake, esq. are found among the tenants by indentures for lives, as holding the grange of Shapwick, with 438 acres of land thereunto belonging, at the annual rent of £20. In 1629 it was held by Sir W. Pole and William Drake, esq. A survey taken in the year 1820, found the statute measure of Shapwick to be 453 acres, 3 roods, and 12 perches.

The estate continued but a short time the property of the noble family of Petre, being sold by William the fourth baron, on the 10th of November, 1670, to Solomon Andrew of Lyme Regis, a gentleman, who possessed a considerable property obtained by his ancestors and himself in mercantile affairs. From him it descended to his only son, who

died at the early age of twenty nine years, leaving two sons and a daughter, the latter of whom, by the decease of her brothers, became heiress to the estate. The young lady was placed under the guardianship of Mr. Rhodes of Modbury, and her uncle, Mr. Tucker of Lyme, in whose family she resided. At this time Henry Fielding, whose very objectionable but once popular works have placed his name high on the list of novel writers, was an occasional visitor at the place, and enraptured with the charms and the more solid attractions of Miss Andrew, paid her the most assiduous attention. The views of her guardians were however opposed to a connection with so dissipated, though well born and well educated a youth, who is said to have in consequence, made a desperate attempt to carry the lady off by force on a Sunday, when she was on her way to church. The residence of the heiress was then removed to Modbury, and the disappointed admirer found consolation in the society of a beauty at Salisbury whom he married. In after life Fielding is said to have indulged his fancy in delineating the character of his heroine Sophia Western from the model furnished by the personal charms and the good qualities of Sarah Andrew. Ambrose Rhodes, then a student at Oxford, became her husband, and thus acquired the estate of Shapwick. This gentleman was a descendant from the family of Rhodes of the the county of Derby, and in his family the lands of

Shapwick remain to the present day, being now the property of John Henry Rhodes, esq. of Bishoptington in this county, a captain in the royal navy. In the collection of pictures at Bellair near Exeter, the seat of the late George Rhodes, esq. are two portraits of Sarah Andrew, one at an early age in the bloom of youth and beauty, the other in advanced life. The pedigree at the close of this section, shewing the connection of the two families and the descent of this estate has been framed from authentic sources of information.

The farm buildings at Shapwick do not present a single vestige of antiquity. They are beautifully situated in a sequestered valley, which by an abrupt variety of soil and surface presents an agreeable diversity of scenery. On the north eastern side of the valley, Professor Buckland discovered the remains of extensive quarries of a calcareous grit-stone in the green sand immediately below the chalk, which he compared on a small scale to the Latomia of Syracuse. This kind of stone was largely used in ancient times for the higher purposes of architecture, and was employed in the erection of many of the neighbouring churches. It may be seen also in the earliest existing portions of the Cobb or pier at Lyme, but its use has been relinquished, probably on account of its hardness, and the less cost of working the Portland and other stone.

PEDIGREE of ANDREW and RHODES.—The family of Andrew of Lyme is said to have descended from John Andrew of Awston in the county of Devon, Clerk of the Green-cloth to Henry VII. A pedigree commencing with his name, and continued to five descents, is in the possession of the proprietor of Shapwick.

Arms of Andrew.
Sable, a Saltire argent, between four Crosscrosslets or.

Solomon Andrew = Mary, dau. of Merchant. Three times Mayor of Lyme Regis. Died 28 Feb. 1684. Bur. in Lyme ch.

Solomon Andrew = Florence daught. of Mary, Dd. 5 Mar. 1696. Ag. 47 Bur. in Lyme ch.

Mary, Dd. 31 July, 1670. Bur. in Lyme ch. = Bonham Strangeways.

Solomon Andrew = Mary daughter of John Huckmore of Buckland Baron, esq. Dd. 20 April, 1712, aged 29. Bur. in Lyme ch.

Mary Dd. 8 June 1680. bur. in Lyme ch. Florence died a widow, 25 Mar. 1768, ag. 88. bur. in Lyme ch.

= Andrew Tucker Merchant of Lyme.

William Andrew Dd. 6 Mar., 1713, aged 1. Bur. in Lyme ch.

Solomon Andrew Dd. 10 May, 1714, aged 2. Bur. in Lyme ch.

.... Rhodes = 1st Elizabeth dau. of .. Baker. 2nd Juliana daught. of. Strode of Newenham, co. Devon b esq.

a

Ambrose Rhodes = Elizabeth 2nd dau. of Geo. Prestwood, Devon, Surgeon, afterwards of Bellair.

Arms of Rhodes.

Argent a Lion passant guardant in bend gules, between two Acorns proper, cotized ermines.

Sarah Andrew, = Ambrose Rhodes, only dau. and heir of Bellair, esq. Dd. 1 Mar. 1772, aged 72. Bur. in Heavitree ch.

George Rhodes, = daughter of Rev. Geo. Baker, D.D. Archden. of Totnes. Sister of Sir Geo. Baker, bart. M.D.

Mary, died 17th Nov. 1760, ag. 24. Bur. in Heavitree church.

Ambrose Andrew Rhodes, esq. only son and heir, Dd. unmarried 26 Nov. 1800, aged 71.

George Rhodes, = Elizabeth, dau. of rev. John Sleech, D.D. Archden. of Cornwall, and Preb. of Glo'ster, Dd. 1 Aug. 1817, ag. 62.

George Ambrose Rhodes, of Bellair, esq. M.D. Owner of Shapwick, Dd. 21 Sept. 1842. aged 68, unmarried.

John Henry Rhodes, esq. Capt. R. N. of Bishop's Teignton, co. Devon, owner of Shapwick, 1843.

Ambrose William Rhodes, clerk, Died 16 Feb. 1818, ag. 36.

Charles Sleech Rhodes, Capt. Royal Engineers. killed at St. Sebastian, 31 Aug. 1813, ag. 27.

Thomas Baker Rhodes, Died 14 Aug. 1804 aged 8.

Edward Duncan Rhodes, clerk. Minister of Kensington Chapel, Bath. 1843.

Seven daughters

b

L

BEVOR.

This is an estate situated on the eastern border of the county of Devon and of the parish of Axminster, about two miles from the town. Its name is a corruption of the French "beau-voir," and was given to it by the monks of Newenham in consequence of the extensive view obtained from the hill of which it forms a part. Several instances occur about the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, of lands having acquired this name for the same reason. This estate was selected by the abbot and convent of Newenham, shortly after the manor of Axminster was granted to that community, for one of the farms to be retained in their own occupation. The earliest mention which we find of it, is as an appendage to the manor, in a confirmatory charter of King Henry III, in the year 1247. It is again referred to about the year 1308, and we learn from the conventual chartulary that the farm house or grange properly so called, was built here during the abbacy of John de Geytyngton in 1333. The cost of this erection was defrayed out of the sum of £24 0s 6d, obtained by fines on renewals of leases under the manor of Plenynt in Cornwall, which belonged to the abbey, being a kind of contribution from the tenants of that manor collected by the steward for

the purpose, when the extension of their terms was proposed to them.* This was a favourable opportunity for appealing to the charity of these persons, as their interests were concerned, and the name of each individual with the sum which he contributed was entered on the records of the manor.

We have no means of ascertaining the amount of actual profits which accrued to the fraternity by the cultivation of this or either of their farms, nor of the system of husbandry as relates to the arable culture which they carried on. That they kept large numbers of cattle and sheep is certain, and the fact is recorded that the mortality which raged among the animals about the year 1320, swept off no fewer than 164 head of horned cattle belonging to the monastery.

The lands now designated by the title of Bevor grange comprised about 770 acres of land of various quality. The chartulary furnishes the names of the lands which, being in the occupation of the monks, were not liable to the demand of tithe, stating at the same time that the average annual value of the tithe of corn at Bevor, was seven marks. The secular employments so generally followed by the Cistercian monks were inconsistent with their vows, but it is probable that the example afforded

* Chart. fol. 121, b.

by their successful application of a large capital to the practice of agriculture, was of great benefit to the science at large, and tended very much to introduce and encourage the improved methods of farming which grew up in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

In the Ecclesiastical Valor of 1535, and the estimate of the commissioners for the crown revenues in 1540, the returns of Bevor grange are valued at £13. 6s. 8d. After the dissolution, this estate remained in the hands of the crown until the 12th of February, 1563, when it was granted with the rest of the conventual property to the Duke of Norfolk. John Drake, esq. of Ash, with his two sons Robert and Richard, had previously held it for some time on lease, and at this period, the father being dead, it was in the tenure of the sons, who continued to hold it down to the year 1581, and perhaps later. On the 7th of June, 1605, this, with the other conventual farms and the manor of Axminster, were purchased, as already stated, by Lord Petre. A survey of the property taken in 1607, states that William Drake, gentleman, was the tenant of Bevor grange with 394 acres of land, belonging to it, by an indenture for lives, at the annual rent of £13. 6s. 8d.

At the expiration of the interest held by the Drake family, this estate was granted to the South-

cotts, residing at Dowleshays in the parish of Kilmington, who held it for several years. Over the fire-place of the farm house kitchen, the letters T. I. S. with the date 1686, are rudely carved. These are the initials of the names of Thomas Southcott, esq. and Jane his wife, daughter and co-heiress of William Collins of Offwell, esq., who rebuilt the house at this time.

The estate remained the property of the Lords Petre until the 16th of October, 1810, when a large part of it, to the extent of about 320 acres, was sold in fee to Thomas Barns, gent. of Hawkchurch, an adjoining parish in the county of Dorset. That gentleman died on the 4th of July, 1826, and this estate, with the exception of some small portions since sold to the late Mr. Frampton and others, is now the property of his youngest son Thomas Barns, esq. of Tillworth in that parish.

The lands of Bevor, with those of the adjoining estate of Furslegh grange, and others belonging to the manor of Axminster, were many years in the possession of the same owners, and were all in consequence occasionally divided and granted indiscriminately on leases to various persons, at different times, and in larger or smaller portions, so that it is not now possible to distinguish the lands which were in the actual occupation of the monks of Newenham. They have also received consider-

able additions by the enclosure of wastes, so that the name of Bevor is now given to a much larger extent of lands than formerly ; the quantities of the lands mentioned in these notices must therefore be taken only as approximations to the truth. In addition to those abovementioned, a portion of about 100 acres, a part of which is called Bevor Batches, belonged to the late William Knight, esq., and in the ultimate disposal of lord Petre's estate, about 344 acres bearing the name of Bevor, became, as in the case of the manorial and other estates already mentioned, the joint property of the late J. A. Frampton, esq. and the same W. Knight, esq. passing in like manner in undivided moieties to the devisees and the heirs at law of those gentlemen respectively.

FURSLEGH.

There are three contiguous estates known by the respective names of Higher, Middle, and Lower Furslegh, situated about a mile and a half east from the town of Axminster, on the north side of the London road ; but it is doubtful whether the whole of the lands now belonging to them were comprised within the third farm or grange held in cultivation by the monks of Newenham. A considerable portion appears to have been sold off from the manor of Axminster previous to the grant of the latter to the abbey, but was acquired and added to the con-

ventual property during the government of Henry de Persolte the second superior of the house. This was called "Cranmore juxta Furslegh," and the adjoining lands were in all probability at that time an open common or lea overgrown with furze; when these became enclosed and added to Cranmore, the whole took the name of Furslegh. The only deed relating to this estate which appears in the conventual chartulary is in substance as follows:—

Adam Cran, for the health of his soul, gives, grants, and confirms, to God, the blessed Mary, the abbot and the monks of Newenham there serving and to serve God, all his lands of Cranmore with its appertences in frank almoigne for ever. He further grants also his own services to the monks aforesaid faithfully and devotedly for life. "Concessi etiam sup'd'c'is mo'chis s'uiciu' meu' ad s'uiend' fidelit' et devote o'ibz diebz vite mee." In consideration of which grant and concession, the abbot and convent agree to supply the donor with reasonable food and clothing for life. "P' hac aute' donac'o'e concess'o'e et p'sent's carte confirmac'o'e dederu't m' ante dic'i abb's et mo'chi du' vix'o r'onabilem victu' meu' et vestitu'." This deed is without date, but is elsewhere referred to as having been executed in the thirty-third year of king Henry III., viz. 1248. In consequence of this donation and agreement, Adam Cran was no doubt received within the

walls of the monastery, and became one of the lay brethren who performed the inferior duties of the house. At this unhappy period of English history the miseries of the people in the middle and lower classes of life were very great, the tyranny and exactions of their superiors, the perversions of law and justice, the scarcity of money, and the consequent difficulty of procuring even the commonest necessaries of life were severely felt, so that the shelter of a monastery was looked upon as a refuge where a man might expect peace and competency for the remainder of his days, secure from the perils and privations which surrounded him. Many thought themselves happy in purchasing such an asylum by the sacrifice of their property, and this tended to enrich the monasteries as well as to increase their number, while the inmates within their walls, holding offices and appointments of all grades and distinctions, were for the same reasons extremely numerous.

Furslegh was the first estate in order of time which the monks took into their own hands, but not the largest in extent. It consisted of about one hundred acres, and they continued to cultivate it down to the period of the dissolution. Among the lands which are noted in the chartulary as exempt from the payment of tithe at Furslegh is a spot described in the following words, "It'm de

vno acr' in campo s'b columbari vbi olym erat Rubus." The average value of the tithe of corn grown at this place was three marks. We are destitute of any further information respecting this estate, except that the pigeon-house above referred to was erected at the grange by abbot John de Geytyngton about the year 1330. In the valuation of ecclesiastical property made in 1535, and in the returns of the commissioners for the crown revenues immediately after the dissolution, the farm rent of Furslegh grange is entered at ten marks. This property was granted by queen Elizabeth, with the other abbey lands, to the Duke of Norfolk on the 12th of February, 1563, at which time it was held by Richard and Robert the sons of John Drake, esq. of Ash, to whom with their father, then deceased, it had been granted on lease. These gentlemen continued to hold it till 1581, and perhaps later. On the 7th of June, 1605, it was sold by lord William Howard to lord Petre, and on a survey in 1607, it was found to be held by William Drake, on an indenture for lives, at the yearly rent of £6 13s 4d.

Furslegh grange, like that of Bevor, has been divided into several portions and cannot now be distinctly traced; a part continued the property of the lords Petre, and followed the fate of the Newenham demesne; another portion now called Middle

Furslegh, consisting of about seventy-four acres, was sold in fee, in 1809, to the tenant Mr. Amos Liddon, a surgeon of Axminster; that gentleman again sold it to Mr. John Bull, of Charmouth; on whose decease it became the property of his brother and heir-at-law Mr. Robert Bull, of Kilmington. He died on the 3rd of August, 1830, and left the estate by will to the daughters of his sister, named Shiles, in whose possession it still remains.*

The small estate called Lower Furslegh is the residence and a part of the property of Mr. Samuel Stevens, having been purchased of Lord Petre in fee, by that gentleman's father, in 1810, but nothing has been met with to show that it formed a part of the conventual grange.

BREWESHAYS.

A fourth grange or farm which was held in cultivation by the monks of Newenham bore this ancient name. It comprised lands the boundaries of which are not precisely defined, but a part of

* Mr. Robert Bull, by a deed dated the 27th of June, 1820, charged this estate with the annual payment of £40. to the trustees of the Methodist Meeting House at Axminster, for the benefit of the poor of the parish, in bread, clothing, or money; the repairs of the chapel, and the instruction of children; but by a deed dated the 25th of May, 1829, he revoked the former, and gave the said rent-charge to Lancelot Haslope, esq., John Josiah Buttress, the Rev. Jabez Bunting, and the Rev. John Stevens, without limitation of trust. The rent-charge is now applied under the directions of the Methodist conference.

them at least are yet known to form two separate and detached portions, situated a short distance from each other on the western side of the parish of Axminster. One of these estates, which is known by the joint names "Breweshays and Boardlands" consists of sixty-one acres of land near Coryton and the river Yartie, the other, also called Breweshays, forms a small part of what is known as the tything of Westwater and Clayhill, and comprises about sixteen acres of ground. Both were a part of lord Petre's estate, and are now the property of William Tucker, esq. of Coryton, by the purchase of the late William Tucker, esq. from the late Mr. Frampton, with other lands, on the 25th of January, 1825.

The appellation Breweshays was probably in its origin Brewer's-hays, hedges, or enclosures; and was given in consequence of the Lord Brewer, who was possessed of the manor of Axminster in the early part of the thirteenth century, having a house of some description on this spot, with enclosures here in his own occupation. In the chartulary of the abbey written in the reign of king Edward the III. "*antiqua curia eiusdem loci,*" is spoken of with reference to this place. Lord Brewer was, like most of the gentlemen of that illiterate age, a sportsman, having free license, by grant from king John, to hunt the hare, fox, cat, and wolf through-

out all Devonshire, with free-warren of his own lands for hares, pheasants and partridges; and perhaps he had here what would now be called a hunting-box or a dog-kennel. The term Boardlands given to a part of the estate means probably either border-lands, as being on the verge of the manor, or is derived from the Anglo-saxon "bord" a cottage, implying lands held by labourers with their dwellings.

We are not informed either of the actual extent of the farm of Breweshayes, of the time when the monks took it into their own hands, or when they gave it up, but it is certain that they did not retain it until the dissolution, as they did the granges of Bevor and Furslegh. The names of the lands which were exempt from the payment of tithes at Breweshays are entered in the chartulary, and it is stated that twenty-two shillings was the average value of the tithe of corn grown at this place. Abbot John de Geytyngton built a farm house here about the year 1330, and a dovecote. The fact of the erection of dove or pigeon houses at this place and at Furslegh, proves that some importance was attached to them. By our ancient laws a dovecote may be erected by the lord of the manor upon his own land, but not by a tenant without the lord's permission, and from this feudal

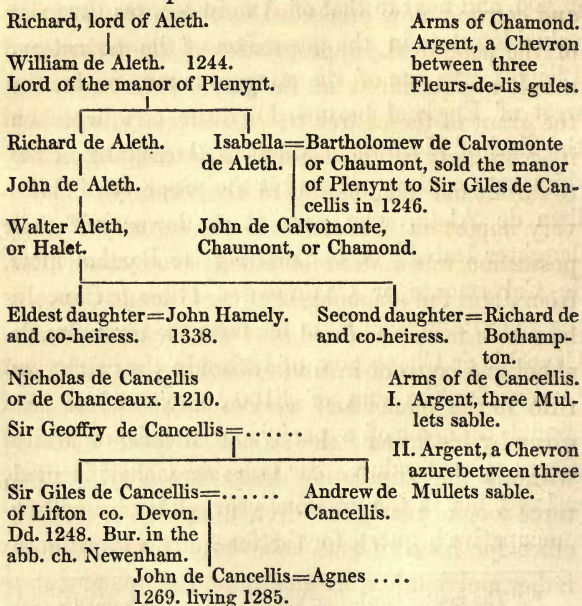
superiority arose probably the heavy penalties for destroying pigeons which are still in force.*

PLENYNT.

The parish anciently known by this name, but now called Pelynt and Plint, is about three miles from West Looe, in the county of Cornwall. The principal manor, with the advowson, became the property of the abbey of Newenham at an early period, and next to that of Axminster was the most valuable estate in the possession of the monastery. Plenynt was one of the numerous manors in the west of England bestowed by the conqueror on the Earl of Moriton. About the beginning of the thirteenth century we find it the property of William de Aleth, who gave it as dower with his daughter Isabella on her marriage to Bartholomew de Calvomonte or Chaumont. These parties, in the year 1246, sold it in fee-farm to Sir Giles de Cancellis or Chanceaux, of Lifton in the county of Devon, for the sum of £100., subjected to the annual payment of a penny, or a pair of white gloves of that value. Sir Giles de Cancellis died in 1248, but in the previous year, either by will or nuncupative bequest, for the form of the grant does

* "The matter is whether he be a man of such quality that the state allows him to have a dove-house? if so, there's an end of the business; his pigeons have a right to eat where they please themselves." Selden's Table Talk. "Conscience."

not appear, he had bestowed this manor with the advowson and all their appertences on the abbot and convent of Newenham.* The conventual chartulary presents us with deeds to the number of more than twenty, from various individuals, establishing the title or confirming the grant; and the following short genealogies, collected principally from that record, will serve to show the relationship of the several parties concerned.



* The body of Sir Giles de Cancellis was removed to Newenham, and buried, as we have seen, in the choir of the abbey church.

Sir Giles de Cancellis bestowed the property, as he had purchased it, in fee farm, but Richard de Aleth, with his grandson Walter, confirmed the manor and advowson to the abbot and convent in frank almoigne. The latter of these states at the foot of the conveyance, that his own seal not being well known, he had procured those of Sir Roger de Carmino and Sir Henry de Bodrigan knights, to be affixed to the deed at the same time. The abbot and convent now proceeded to obtain the sanction of the pope to the appropriation of the living, and a bull was procured in the year 1256, confirming the grant of the church to the fraternity, who held it accordingly till the dissolution, letting the rectory to farm, and nominating to the vicarage. But a very important document to the security of their possession was a deed obtained some years after, from John the son and heir of Sir Giles de Cancellis by which for himself and his heirs, he grants to the abbot and convent in frank almoigne, all right and title to the manor and advowson which had been given by his father; this is not however conceded without the stipulation that they shall provide three monks yearly for ever, to celebrate the holy office for his own soul and those of his wife, his father and mother, his uncle, and all his ancestors and descendants. This instrument was dated the 8th of December, 1269, and such was the import-

ance attached to the seal of the grantor that when, nine years after, he changed his usual seal, another deed of conveyance was executed by him, and his new seal was affixed to the former instrument with the following memorandum “Is erat tenor sub sigillo meo quo tunc utebar. Quod q’ postea mutatu’ est p’sente’ cartam sigilli mei quo nu’c vtor munimi’e roborau.”

Soon after this the abbot and convent purchased a house and garden at Plenynt of John Kylgad for 20s. and acquired a piece of land from Walter de Penhylek, who granted it on the sole condition that they should allow him a participation in the benefit of their masses, and all the spiritual good which was then or might thereafter be done by them, both within and without the abbey.

It appears that a part of the lands of Plenynt adjoined others belonging to a manor then called Trenalone, now Trelawne, the property of the family of Champernon ; and disputes having arisen between the respective lords, relative to their boundaries at a place called Crenmore, an agreement was entered into by abbot William de Cornubia and Sir William de Champernon, on the 22nd of May, 1285, by which it was decided that the spot in question should be equally divided between them, and arrangements were at the same time

made relative to the common of pasture of their respective tenants.

With one of the vicars whom the abbot and convent had appointed to the church of Plenynt, they had also a disagreement, relative to the tithes of certain produce, and the following arrangement was made by the parties, viz. that the abbot and convent should receive the tithes of beans, peas, and tares, from all crofts or fields exceeding half an acre in extent, but that similar tithes accruing from those of half an acre or less should belong to the vicar. The abbot and convent at the same time stipulate that 20s. due to them by the vicar for sundry trespasses and damages, shall be paid before Easter, on pain of an increased demand. The deed executed on this occasion is dated at Plenynt, on the Lord's day next after the feast of St. Benedict (24th of March,) 1286.

We have also an agreement between the abbot and convent and one Richard de Tredford, who laid claim to husbote, heybote, and other estovers from the woods upon the manor of Plenynt. By this deed it was arranged that Richard should renounce his claim on condition of receiving ten cart-loads of fuel yearly, with six beams, "furcas," suited to building a house of sixteen feet in length. He does not appear to have been in the most flourishing circumstances, for by another deed, the ab-

bot and convent, after premising that the said Richard was indebted to them in the sum of £20 for sundry trespasses, agree, if he will be as good as his word in paying 40s within a time specified, to remit the remaining £18. This charitable release is dated at Newenham in 1306. In 1317 we find John de Tredford appointed keeper of the woods at Plenynt by a warrant dated at Newenham “die d'nica p'x' an' f'm purificac'onis be' marie.”

In the year 1321, after a scutage had been collected by king Edward II. towards carrying on the war in Scotland, an investigation took place as to the liability of the abbot and convent to contribute to the tax as owners of the manor of Plenynt. The inquiry was made at Launceston, by William Botraux and Richard de Helwysch, collectors of the scutage, in the presence of Sir John de Stonore and Sir John Foxlegh, justices of assize, and it was satisfactorily proved that they did not hold it by military service of the king or any other, but by frank almoigne, of the heirs of Richard Aleth, and were therefore exempt. The seal of Henry Campo-Arnulphi or de Champernon, who was present, was affixed to the instrument which stated the grounds of the decision.*

But the manor, though extensive, and inclu-

* Chart. fol. 101.

ding a part of the adjoining parish of Lanreath, did not embrace the larger portion of the lands in that of Plenynt. This parish at the present day comprises four manors, one of which at least was held by military service. It consisted of the principal messuage in Plenynt, with lands to the extent of a knight's fee, and descended also from the family of Aleth, having, by the marriage of the eldest daughter and co-heiress of Walter Aleth, the last of the name, fallen to John Hamely, who did homage for it to the duke of Cornwall, at the royal palace of Kennington in Surry, on St Mark's day, 1338.* This appears to have been the manor now called Tregarrick.

By the chartulary and the register of Newenham we are furnished with documents relating to the rental of the manor of Plenynt at three several periods of time. The first is dated in 1301, and is entitled a roll of the rents of assize and of the tenants by custom at Plenynt, on the arrival of brother Roger de Cerde, who was admitted to the office of custos of the manor on the feast of the blessed St. Thomas the Apostle in the 30th of king Edward I. Then follows a list of tenants' names with the extent of the holding of each, and the amount of his rent. The next of these docu-

* Chart. fol. 95.

ments is an account, at considerable length, of the proceedings at the manor court of Plenynt, held on the Lord's day next after the feast of the translation of St. Benedict, (15th of July) 1330, when an official letter was read, which had been addressed to Henry de Lerkestone, the custos of the manor, by the abbot and convent, authorizing him to extend the terms of the several tenants of the manor, for the purpose of raising a fund to defray the cost of rebuilding the grange at Bevor near Axminster. The said letter was then, as it is expressed, let to farm for the term of twenty years, and produced the sum of £24 0s 6d, which was appropriated by the abbot and convent to the building. We have then a list of tenants of the manor, with descriptions of their several holdings, and the amount of the fines which they advanced on the occasion, as also notices of homage done by individuals for their tenements at different periods. The third is a rental of the manor about the middle of the fourteenth century, furnishing a list of the tenants with the rent payable by each, amounting to £13 9s 2½d.

With respect to the estimated value of the manor and living of Plenynt at other periods, we learn that by the valor of Pope Innocent IV in 1254, the manor was rated at £7 17s 6d yearly, and the tenth was accordingly assessed at 15s 9d.

It was estimated at the same amount in the taxation of Pope Nicholas in 1291, which we have adverted to in a former page. The living was at the same time valued at £8, and it seems that the vicar was chargeable with the tax according to the terms of the endowment which had been agreed upon between him and the rectors. The vicarage was also rated at £2, but the tenth does not appear to have been charged upon it.* By the Valor Ecclesiasticus of 1535, the manor was estimated at the clear annual value of £21 9s 5½d, and the rectory at £14. Five years after, the value of the manor was computed by the commissioners of the crown revenues at £23 12s 9½d, and that of the living at £14 as before. In a preceding page reasons are given for doubting the correctness of the valuation of 1535, as far as relates to the property of the abbey, and especially as to the manor of Plenynt. It is remarkable that immediately after that investigation, viz. on the 20th of August, 1535, abbot Gyll, in consideration of a fine of 20 marks, “in opus et usum monasterii,” granted to William Achym the

* “Decanat’ de Westwellchir’.	Taxatio.	Decima.
Eccl’ia de Pleynt.....	8 0 0	0 16 0
Vicar’ eiusdem.....	2 0 0	- - -

Taxatio eccles. P. Nicholai. p. 147.

“Eccl’ia de Plenynt que taxat’ in viij li vn’ vicar’ eiusd’m ecc’ie p’ ordinac’o’m int’ p’tes confectam tenet’ responder’.” Chart. fol. 112.

great tithes of Plenynt, for a term of ninety-nine years, at the rent of £14, “omnes et omnimodas decimas sive fructus et proficua decimarum Garbarum et Granorum crescentium infra parochiam de Plenynt.” On the same day a lease was also granted to William Achym, for the like fine and for the same term of years, of the estate called “La Halle” in Plenynt, also of “Le Hoye” with a cottage “juxta la vicarage ex parte australi,” and the profits of the fairs holden “apud La Halle.” Rent for “La Halle” £6 16s 8d, for “Le Hoye” 12d, for the cottage 4d, and for the profits of the fair 12d.* The abbot and convent obtained a grant in 1356, of a fair in the manor of Plenynt for three days at the festival of the nativity of St. John the Baptist,† which is still held as a cattle fair on Midsummer day. William Achym was also appointed bailiff of the manor of Plenynt by the same abbot on the 26th of August, 1535, at a salary of 20s and 10s more for his gown “pro tunica.”

Not long after the dissolution, the manor and the advowson of Plenynt are believed to have been

* From notes taken by the Rev. G. Oliver from two volumes of leases in the library at Powderham. The family of Achym rose to considerable wealth after this period, but became extinct in the early part of the eighteenth century. Their coat armorial was, Argent a Maunch sable, a Border of the last charged with eight Cinquefoils of the field.

† Rot. Cart. 30 Edw. III.—Lysons' Cornwall, 256.

granted by the crown to one of the family of Achym just mentioned, who resided at Trenake in the parish. About the latter end of the reign of Elizabeth they were purchased by Francis Buller, esq, of Tregarreck in the same place, who died in the year 1615, and in this family the property still remains. The manor was given by John Francis Buller, esq. in the beginning of the last century to one of his younger sons, and is now in the possession of his descendant General Buller.* The great tithes, the advowson of the vicarage, and the farm or barton of Hall, belong to James Wentworth Buller, esq. of Downes near Crediton.

A memorandum relative to the church, and the names of some of the incumbents, will conclude the notice of this portion of the conventual property.

The church of Plenynt is dedicated to St. Nunn,† and contains several monuments of the

* The arms of Buller are, Sable, on a Cross argent pierced of the field, four Eaglets displayed of the first.

† St. Nunn is not mentioned in Butler's lives of the Saints. Perhaps St. Nonnus, whose feast is kept on the 2nd of December in the Roman Martyrology, is meant. He was a monk of the monastery of Tabenna in Egypt, and was raised to the see of Heliopolis early in the fifth century. "Nonnus in Latin is a monk, and Nonna a nun; both derived from the language of that original seat of nuns and monks, Egypt. Hence 'Nunnonnes' in some Latin canons of the Saxon Church.—'Monachi seu Nunnonnes,' Wilkins' Concilia i. 97. Canon xix. A. D. 747." Whitaker's Cornwall, i. 60. n.

families of Trelawny and Buller, with one to the memory of William Achym, esq. who died in 1589.

The following names of incumbents presented to the living of Plenynt by the abbots of Newenham have been gathered from the records of the monastery.

The first was Robert Everard, who was presented to the rectory by abbot Geoffry in 1254. He resigned the living soon after, for a pension of 50s a year, and was succeeded by

Walter de Tremour, who was instituted on the day of St. Simon and St. Jude, 28th of October, in the same year.

Nicholas de Musel or Muslegh, rector, presented by abbot Richard, between 1288 and 1291.

The vicarage was endowed during the episcopate of Peter Quivill, and the next name which appears is that of

Richard de Sancto Corono, vicar, who was instituted before 1292.

William de Cadecote, vicar, presented by abbot Ralph. He resigned the living and retired to Newenham, where he died in 1323, and was buried in the cemetery there, having left a moiety of his property to the abbey.

Ralph de Sydemouthe, presented by abbot Ralph de Shapwick before 1314.

Walter Pen or Peen presented to the vicarage

by abbot John between 1321 and 1325. To this incumbent's name is appended the following memorandum, "Cornubicus, qui malu' fecit domui de q'bz post'i caveat's.

Alexander de la Houe; presented by abbot Walter de la Houe in 1338.

John Jogelour, a native of Cornwall, was presented to the vicarage by the same abbot, notwithstanding the caution conveyed by the note attached to the name of Walter Pen. His name is thus entered in the chartulary with similar illiberality of sentiment and inelegance of language. "Joh'es Jogelour vicar's de Plenynt p' Walt'm p'd'c'm Abb'em p'sentat', cornubicus, de qua nacione caueant posteru, q' miser fuit et mala domui fecit."

NORTON.

The manor of Norton forms part of the parish of Launcells, about a mile from the town of Stratton in the county of Cornwall. This manor about the middle of the thirteenth century, was held in fee-farm by Sir William de Mohun, one of the founders of Newenham abbey; and with the bailiwick of Stratton, became afterwards by his advice and assistance, the property of the monastery.

In the reign of the Conqueror, the hundred of Stratton, with the manor of Norton and the lands

of Westorchard, as well as probably a much larger extent of territory in the vicinity, formed a part of the royal demesne. That monarch, after holding the manor for some time in his own possession, bestowed it, with the lands of Ballisdone and the bailiwick of Stratton, on the abbot and convent of Grestin in Normandy, in frank almoigne. They granted it in fee-farm to Oger de Cabuillati, and subsequently to his grandson Peter of the same name. By the deed of conveyance to Oger, we find that the manor was granted to him subject to a yearly rent of 60s, and to his heirs after him on payment of 100s for a relief. Oger in return agrees to pay ten marks in hand, and consents to the following feudal exactions, viz. that he will do fealty to the abbot and convent, that in the event of the abbot's going to the village a lodging and a procuration shall be supplied him for a day and a night once in the year,* and further, that when the abbot determines to collect a common aid from his lands, he shall receive from this tenement a reasonable amount, in proportion to the sums which he received from his other liberate fees. This deed is not dated, but it must have been executed about the middle of the twelfth century, as the transfer

* Respecting procurations, see *The History of Axminster Church*, 33.

of the property was confirmed by Thomas Becket the pope's legate and archbishop of Canterbury.

The lands of Westorchard became, probably by royal gift, the estate of Reginald de Marisco, who conveyed them to Oger de Cabuillati the younger, for the consideration of a gold ring and the annual payment of ten shillings. Reginald appears to have been a Norman, as his deed of conveyance is addressed "Om'ibz amic' et hom'ibz suis francis et Anglicis sal'tem." This estate now descended with the manor from Oger to his son Peter. The rent of 60s due to the abbey of Grestin, not having been regularly paid, fell much in arrear; one of the abbots therefore brought an action in the court of king's bench against Peter, who was adjudged to the payment of a sum of money larger than he was able to discharge without disposing of his estate. This he did by selling and delivering the manor of Norton, with Westorchard and their appertenances, to one Richard de Turry or de la Tour. This person retained possession of it for some time and gave it to his son John, who also held it for several years. John de Turry then took for his wife Matilda the daughter of Peter de Cabuillati the former proprietor, but both dying about the same time without issue, Richard the father of John, took possession again, and after a time conveyed it in fee-farm for the term of three

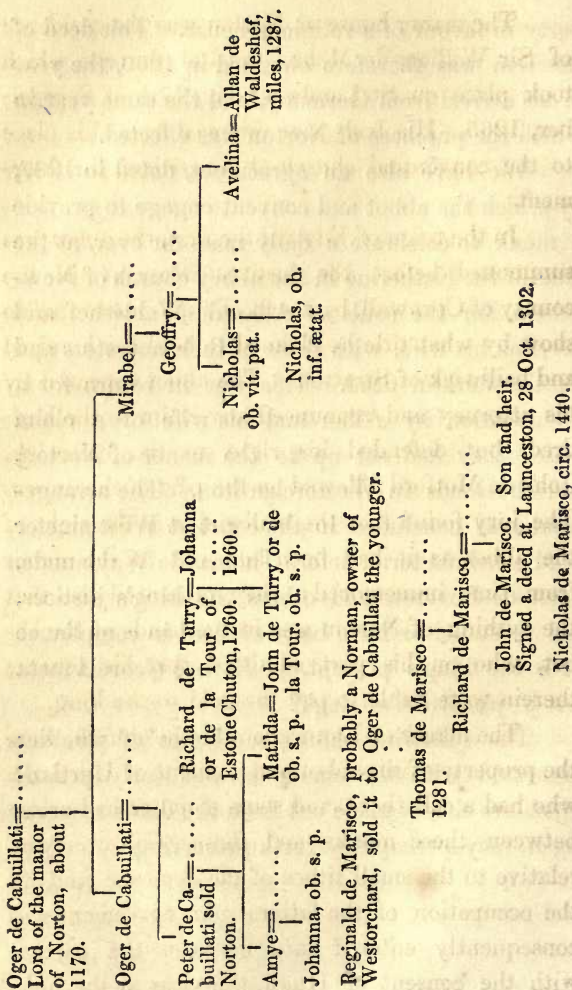
years to Sir William de Mohun. As the perpetuity in the estate was now to be disposed of, this beneficent personage considered that it would be a valuable acquisition to his abbey of Newenham. He therefore advanced a considerable sum of money to the abbot and convent, and in the year 1260, they became the purchasers of the manor, which was still charged as heretofore with the annual rent of 60s. This rent was afterwards, in consideration of the payment of sixty marks sterling, (about thirteen year's purchase) remitted to the abbot and convent of Newenham by the monks of Grestin for ever. The annual rent-charge also of 10s payable from the lands of Westorchard, was given up to them in 1281 and 1302, by the heirs of Reginald de Marisco.

Among the deeds in the Newenham chartulary relating to the transfers of this estate, there is one addressed by Richard, king of the Romans, to the sheriff of Cornwall, dated at Wallingford on the fifth day of October, in the third year of his reign, by which he graciously bestows and grants permission to Richard de Turry, his faithful servant, to sell his manor of Norton to the abbot and convent of Newenham. Richard the brother of king Henry the third, was elected king of the Romans in 1257, and as he was also earl of Cornwall, his consent was necessary to this alienation of pro-

perty in favour of a religious house. This deed of sanction was therefore obtained in 1260, the year of his arrival from Germany, and the same year in which the purchase of Norton was effected.

We have also an agreement, dated in 1287, by which the abbot and convent engage to provide a monk to celebrate a daily mass for ever, at the altar of St. Katherine in the abbey church of Newenham, for the souls of Allan de Waldeshef and Avelina his wife, with those of their ancestors and all the faithful dead. This was in return for a renunciation by Allan and his wife of a claim which they had set up to the manor of Norton, and the lands in Westorhardton. The arrangement was concluded in the court at Westminster in Michaelmas term, before Thomas de Waylaunde, John de Lovetot, and others the king's justices, and is stated to have been effected in compliance with the king's precept. "Et hec q'cordia facta fuit p' p'ceptu' d'ni Reg'."

The following short genealogies of families connected with the manor at this early period, which are clearly made out from the deeds respecting it, may perhaps be worth preserving.



The manor house at Norton was the residence of Sir William de Mohun until his decease, which took place on St Lambert's day, 17th of September, 1265. His body was removed from this place to the conventual church of Newenham for interment.

In the reign of Edward the first, the abbot was summoned before the justices itinerant in the county of Cornwall, by a writ of "quo warranto," to show by what title he claimed to hold the hundred and bailiwick of Stratton. The abbot appeared by his attorney and renounced any claim to the hundred, but defended his right to the bailiwick. John de Motford followed on the part of the crown. The jury found that the bailiwick was the right of the abbot as it had been annexed to the manor from time immemorial; they presented also that the tything of Norton was in the hands of the abbot, who on his part admitted that his tenants therein were liable to pay the geld to the king.

The manor of Launcells and the church, were the property of the abbot and convent of Hartland, who had a cell there, and some disputes had arisen between these monks and those of Newenham, relative to the small tithes of the demesne lands in the occupation of the latter. An agreement was consequently entered into between the parties, with the consent of Hugh, the vicar at the time,

by which the abbot and convent of Newenham consent to pay the sum of five shillings in silver annually in lieu of small tithes of the land in question, and that if their demesne should be extended, the payment should also be increased in a corresponding proportion, which should be settled by arbitration.*

The manor of Norton was valued in the taxation of Pope Innocent IV. at £5 15s, and at the same amount in that of Pope Nicholas in 1291. The tenth accordingly payable was 11s 6d. By the Valor ecclesiasticus in 1535, it was rated at the clear annual value of £17 12s 8d, and by the kings commissioners after the dissolution, in 1540, it was estimated at £19 5s 6d.†

The notices of the undermentioned leases are given on the same respectable authority as those of the same period in Axminster and Plenynt beforementioned.

28th of October, 1532, abbot Gyll leased to Richard Facy, gent. for three lives, a tenement at Estbalesdon, in Pohitston parish in Cornwall, at the rent of 16s.‡

* Chart. fol. 94.

† For the particulars of these sums, see the valuations of the conventual property in a foregoing page.

‡ Ballisdone appears to have been an appendage to the manor of Norton. Chart. fol. 92.

15th of September, 1534, abbot Gyll, in consideration of the sum of £3, leased to John Kelley, his executors and assigns, all the messuage, lands, and tenements belonging to the abbey in Estleston and Westleston in Cornwall for fifty five years. Rent for Estleston 21s, for Westleston 26s 8d, and for the annual service 3s at Michaelmas.

1st of October, 1534, abbot Gyll grants to William Achym of Bodmin, merchant, the wardship of Henry Kelly, son and heir of William Kelly, esq. deceased, and of his estates held of the abbey by military service, in Tradeforde and Tregowe, in the parish of Launcells; as also his maritage, to hold the same until Henry shall arrive at the age of twenty-one years. Should Henry die before he reaches that age, then Achym is to hold the wardship until the next heir shall have completed his minority.

24th of June, 1538, abbot Gyll leases to John and Elizabeth Lyell of Sutcombe, the estate in Piggesden within the manor of Norton Abbas in the parish of Lanstowe, to hold the same for their lives at the rent of 30s with right of conveying to their executors and assigns a term of twenty years in the premises from their death. This was allowed by the Augmentation court, on the 5th of February, 1541.

Inquiry into the precise history of the manor of

Norton after the dissolution has been unsuccessful. It is thought to have become the property of the family of Chamond, and afterwards of that of Rolle, by which it acquired its appellation of "Norton Rolle." Paul Orchard, esq. of Launcells, possessed it on the 27th of January, 1701, and it is now the property of Lewis William Buck, esq. M. P. under the will of his great uncle Paul Orchard, esq. bearing date the 16th of May, 1794.

OF THE FAMILY OF MOHUN.

This noble family ranks among the most ancient in the compass of English history. William de Mohun, with his son and a numerous retinue of knights of the first rank, accompanied the invader from Normandy in the eleventh century, and by their prowess at the battle of Hastings rendered the most valuable assistance in the conquest of England. An ancient French chronicle thus designates William de Mohun as the most distinguished of the conqueror's followers.

“Un role de ceux queux veignent en Angleterre ouesque roy W'm le Conquereur.*

Faet asavoir que en lan du grace n're seign'r Jesu Christe mil sisaunt ses per jour de samadi en la feste S. Calixto* vint Will'm Bastarde duc de Normandie cosin a noble roy seint Edwarde le fiz de Emme de Angleter et tua le roy Haraude et lui tali le terre par leide des Normannez et aultres gentz de divers terres. Entre quils vint ouesque luy monseir Willim de Moion le uiel le plus noble

* Leland's Collectanea, i. 202.

† Saturday the 14th of October, 1066.

de tout loste. Cest Will'm de Moion auoit de sa retenaunde en lost tous les grauntz sieignors a pres nomez si come il est escript en le liuer des conquerors sest asauoir." (Here follows a list of fifty seven knights) "Tous ycelz seigneirs de sus nome estoient a la retenaunce Monseir de Moion si cum de sus est diste."

The king in recompense to his brave companion in arms for his important services, bestowed upon him no less than fifty-five manors in Somersetshire, together with the lordship of Dunster and the castle there, which with its appertenances was held of the crown by the service of forty knight's fees and a half.* To these were added the manors of Clehanger in Devon,† Wichford in Warwickshire, Sutton in Wiltshire, and several others. Sir William de Mohun founded and endowed the Benedictine priory in the immediate neighbourhood of his castle of Dunster and was buried there.

Of William his son who succeeded him, little further is known than that in conjunction with Agnes his wife, he bestowed the church of Wichford on the canons of Bridlington in Yorkshire, and that he gave to the canons of Taunton the

* "Regin' de Moun tenet Dunestawe cum p'tin' in cap' de d'n' Rege pro servicio 40 milit' et dim' de conquestu Angliæ." Liber diu's inquis' temp' E. I. MS. in Bibl. Harl. 5804, fol. 104.

† Exchequer Domesday Book, fol. 110 a.

manor of Lydyard St. Lawrence. He also was buried in the priory church of Dunster.

Sir William de Mohun, the third of the name, distinguished himself by his adherence to the empress Maude, in whose cause he defended his castle of Dunster, and made frequent excursions against the friends of king Stephen in that neighbourhood, until he received a check from Sir Henry Tracy at Barnstaple. In consideration of his services, the empress is said to have created him earl of Dorset, but he does not appear to have borne the title. The manor of Bruton, which had descended to him from his grandfather, he bestowed with other valuable estates on the Augustine monastery at that place which had been founded before the conquest, and in the church of that monastery both he and his son William were buried. The latter in the twelfth year of king Henry II. certified his knight's fees to be in number, forty "de veteri feoffamento" and four "de novo."

To Sir William succeeded Reginald, who was under age at his father's death, and whose wardship and marriage, his lands being a fief of the crown, were granted by the king to lord Brewer. The practice of granting wardships and marriages, so frequent from the twelfth to the fifteenth century, arose from the policy of the feudal system, and was instituted for the purpose of securing the perform-

ance of the military service due from the fief, and of preventing it from being endamaged during the minority of the tenant; but it quickly became a fruitful source of injury and oppression. A wardship consisted in having the custody of the body, and the profits of the lands of the heir without giving any account, till the age of twenty-one in males and sixteen in females. At that age heirs might sue out the livery of their lands from the guardian's hands, but for this they were obliged to pay a fine amounting to half a year's profit of the estate, and in the mean time the right of wardship was often abused by selling the heir with the land during the minority to the highest bidder.* The marriage or power of disposing of wards both male and female in matrimony, was still more oppressive, and became a lucrative source of extortion to the crown as well as to mesne lords. If wards refused such a marriage as the guardian thought fit to provide, they forfeited the value of the marriage to him, and if they married without his consent the penalty was double the value. Tenants in chief fined to the crown for leave to marry whom they

* The right of selling the ward was expressly acknowledged by the statute of Merton, 20 Henry III. c. 6. The chartulary of Newenham contains a copy of a deed by which Sir Simon de Montacute, for the sum of £100 sterling, grants to Sir William de Mohun and to whomsoever he thinks fit to dispose of it, the wardship and marriage of the heir of Sir William Malherbe.

would, or for not being compelled to marry any other. It may be easily imagined how greatly this practice tended, by interested alliances, to increase the overwhelming authority of the barons.* It was in accordance with this custom that Lord Brewer married his ward to his own daughter Alice, who became one of his heirs, and thus Sir Reginald came into possession of the manor of Axminster, and several others in Devonshire. His son of the same name was the founder of Newenham abbey as recorded in this volume. He was in great favour with king Henry III. and on the 6th of July, in the 25th year of that monarch's reign, was appointed one of the justiciars of the Common Pleas. In the following year he was constituted chief justice of all the forests south of Trent, and in the 36th of the same reign was made governor of Saubey castle in Leicestershire.

This Sir Reginald was the individual who received the distinguished honour of being created Earl of Somerset by Pope Innocent IV. This singular invasion of the royal prerogative, as it appears to be the only instance on record in this country, deserves a more particular notice. It was the practice at that time, as it appears to be at the

* These and similar grievances were first abrogated by parliament in 1645, and finally abolished by the statutes 12 Car. II, c. 24, and 2 Geo. II, c. 43 and 50.

present, for the pope, on the day called "Lætare Jerusalem," to present a consecrated rose or flower of gold to some brave and honourable person in company with him at high mass, or to send it to some individual whom he wished to distinguish by his favour.* The pope was then at Lyons, whither Sir Reginald had proceeded to obtain his sanction and confirmation to the new foundation of Newenham abbey; and forming one of the congregation on the day above mentioned, was thought worthy to receive this flattering token of respect. But as it had not been the custom to bestow the gift on any person of a rank below that of an earl, the pontiff at the same time created him Earl of Est, which the bull interprets Earl of Somerset, with a pension of 200 marks a year, payable out of the papal revenue from England called Peter pence. The following account of this transaction is said to have been taken from an ancient manuscript in the possession of the Mohun family.†

"Quant Sire Reinalda voit ceo faitz il passa a la court de Rome que adonques fuist a Lions pur

* The following notice was observed in the London Newspapers of August 1830. "The golden rose, ornamented with diamonds, which is given by the pope every year to the most sincerely pious of catholic princes, has this year been presented by his holiness' command to Don Miguel!" Miguel, the abandoned usurper of the throne of Portugal!

† Fuller's Ch. Hist. b. 3. p. 64. This transcript is evidently full of mistakes, but its tenor may be readily ascertained.

confirmer et ratifier sa nouvelle abbay a grand honor de lui a touz joues & fuist en la courte le deniergne en quaresme quant lenchaunce loffice del messe Lætare Jerusalem al queu jour lusage de la court este que la poistaille don a plus valiant & a plus honorable home qui puit estre trovez en la diste courte une Rose ou une florette de fin or donquez ilz sercherent tote le courte entroverent ceste Reinald pur le plus noble de toute la courte a qui le pape Innocent donna celle rose ou florette dor & la Papa lui demanda quil home il fuist en son pais il respondi simple bacheleri bean fitz fitz la pape celle rose ou florette unquez ne fuist donez fors au Rois ou au Dukes ou a Countese pour ceo nous voluns que vous sous le counte de Est ceo est Somerset Reinald respondi & aist O Saints piere ieo nay dont le mom meinteyner lapoissoile donques lui dona ducent marcz per annum receiver sur lautre saint Paule de Londres de ces deneires d' Engleterre pour son honor mainteyner de queu donna il reporta Bulles que enquire aurent en plomps, &c. en semblent odue moltes dis aultres bulles confirmatione de sa nouvelle abbay de Newham a pres queu jour il porta la rose ou florette en les armes."*

* The coat-armour first borne by the Mohuns was, Gules, a Maunch ermine. Sir Reginald, after the honour bestowed on him by the pope, assumed these bearings, viz. Gules a Maunch

The historian from whose pages this extract has been taken, observes with reason that it is as needless as difficult to translate the bull verbatim, as it is written in obsolete and ill pointed French.

The dignity thus conferred seems to have been known by the title of an apostolic earldom, and to have conveyed the privileges, under certain conditions, of legitimating natural children, and of appointing notaries. That the disapprobation of the sovereign was not expressed at this proceeding, may perhaps be attributed to the position in which the crown then stood with respect to the papal power; but it does not appear that Sir Reginald, except in the instance of one confirmatory charter obtained by the abbot of Newenham, ever bore the title of Earl of Somerset, or was acknowledged as such in this country.*

Sir Reginald died in the year 1257, and the following account of the circumstances which are

ermine, the Hand argent holding a Fleur-de-lis or, but his great-grandson John de Mohun relinquished this coat and bore Or a Cross engrailed sable, which was the coat adopted by the abbots of Newenham in their seals, as the arms of Mohun. "Reginaldus de Mohun fundator h's domus portavit de goules les escu ove la manche d'argent ermyne e en la mayn de argent une florete florete de or, que arma Joh'es de Moun t'cius mutavit in crucem engreulez."—Register of Newenh. fol. 38. See also Westcott's MS. in the Library of the British Museum, p. 52.

* Camden's Life of Q. Elizabeth, 526.—It is said that the title of Earl of Salisbury was borne by some of this family.—MS. in Bibl. Harl. no. 3288, fol. 147.

said to have attended his decease, is translated almost literally from the chartulary of Newenham in the church of which abbey he was buried. It presents a lamentable but instructive picture of the extent to which the doctrines of Christianity were corrupted in that age, and it affords an example too interesting to be passed over, of the legends by which the priesthood of the thirteenth century imposed on the credulity of the people, and endeavoured to extol the characters and exalt the merits of the founders of monasteries.

On the 13th of the calends of February, (the 20th of January) in the year of our Lord 1257-8, the Lord's day, and the feast of St Fabian and St. Sebastian, Sir Reginald de Mohun, lord of Dunster and the founder of Newenham, entered the way of all flesh at Tor in Devonshire; and this was the manner of his death. Sir Reginald when confined by severe illness, sent for a Franciscan friar, Henry by name, a learned man, who at that time superintended a divinity school at Oxford. He arrived at Tor on the Wednesday preceding the death of Sir Reginald, and heard his humble devout and entire confession. Early on the morning of Friday, as friar Henry entered the chamber of Sir Reginald, the latter thus addressed him. I have had a vision this night: I imagined myself to be in the abbey church of the white monks, and when on the point

of quitting it, a venerable personage clothed in the habit of a pilgrim appeared and addressed me in these words. Reginald, I leave it to your option whether you will come with me now in security and without peril, or wait until the week before Easter exposed to danger. My lord, I replied, I will not wait but will follow you now. I was about to do so when he said, you shall not follow me now, but three days hence you shall come to me in safety. This, said Reginald was the dream which I saw. The friar, after addressing many words of consolation to the sick man, returned to his own chamber, where, seating himself at the foot of his bed, he also fell asleep, and dreamed that he was in the church of a Cistercian monastery and beheld a venerable man, clad in white garments, conducting a boy more radiant than the sun, and in clothing brighter than the clearest chrystal, from the font towards the altar, as is the custom after children have been baptized. On asking what boy it was, he received for answer, this is the soul of the venerable Reginald de Mohun. The friar then awaking, perceived that his own dream was a confirmation of that of Reginald, and signified the same event, for by the baptismal font, contrition of heart and true confession is designated. As in baptism all transgressions are remitted, so in confession all sins are washed away ; and by

the approach to the altar the reception of Sir Reginald's soul into heaven was intimated. The third day having now arrived, Sir Reginald, whose daily custom it had been to hear the whole of the church service, requested friar Henry to recite the Prime and Tierce,* as his hour was fast approaching. The friar complied, and Sir Reginald said, for God's sake speak quickly, for my time draws near. Henry then proceeded to the church to celebrate mass, on which occasion the Introit† was "Circumdederunt me." Prayers and mass, as for the dead, having been concluded, the friar returned in his sacred vestments, bearing the body of the Lord. On his entering the chamber Sir Reginald wished to rise from his bed, but his great weakness and the solicitude of his attendants who, to the number of ten, stood around him, prevented the exertion. Alas! he exclaimed, why not suffer me to rise and meet my Saviour and Redeemer.‡ These were his

* These terms denote parts of the priest's office, which are sung or recited in the Roman Catholic Church at the canonical hours or divisions of time so called. These divisions of time with the corresponding services are seven in each day, viz: Matins—Lauds or Prime—Tierce—Sext—None—Vespers or Even song—and Complin.

† The Introit is a part of the mass, so called from its being recited or sung by the choir during the entrance of the priest and clergy in procession into the church. It is generally selected from the Psalms.

‡ This was in accordance with the awful adoration of the sacramental substances which follows the doctrine of transubstantiation, and with the daring language of the times, "Many

last words, but he partook of the communion while still sensible, and afterwards received the unction. The friar with the priests and clerks present, then recited the recommendation of the departing soul, and at its conclusion, finding Reginald to be still living, a repetition of the service was commenced, but while they pronounced the words "Omnes sancti orate pro eo," without a groan or any indication of pain he slept in the Lord.—The writer then goes on to state that his body was in the proper posture, having the mouth and eyes closed, not requiring therefore the assistance of those who perform such offices after death. To this painful account of misguided devotion, the following statement is subjoined, which, allowing for a little embellishment, may be substantially true. In the year 1333, when the pavement of the presbytery was laid, the body of Sir Reginald was found in the sarcophagus entire, incorrupt, and uninjured, exhaling a most fragrant odour, which body, says the writer, I both saw and touched, for it lay three days open to public view.*

pious or superstitious individuals could hardly persuade themselves to lie down peaceably on their beds at night, unless they had *seen their Maker*, as the phrase commonly went, meaning had gazed upon the host, in the course of the preceding day." Soames. *Hist. Engl. Reform.* i. 346.

* Chart. fol. 26, b. Similar examples of incorruption have been recorded. For one after a much greater lapse of time, see Cleveland's *Hist. of the Courtenay family*, 194.

Sir William de Mohun, the brother of Reginald, and co-founder with him of the abbey, was also buried there. Of the immediate descendants of these persons we learn little more than that they performed the public duties of their stations among the barons of the times. Sir John, the son of Reginald, died in Gascony, but his remains were brought home for interment. His heart was deposited with filial feeling in the choir of Newenham abbey church, close to the remains of his father, while his body was taken to Bruton and buried with his ancestors there. His grandson of the same name took an active share in the public affairs of the period. He was summoned to military service from the 23rd of Edw. I. to the 8th of Edw. II. In the 25th of the first of those reigns he attended with horse and arms in Gascony, and afterwards served in Scotland, bearing a command in the first division of the English army at the siege of Carlarock in 1300. In the 29th Edw. I. Sir John de Mohun exchanged lands in Ireland with the king, for the manor of Long Compton in Warwickshire, and in the year 1301 we find his name as lord of Dunster, affixed to the letter from the barons to the pope, on the subject of the claims made by the latter to the kingdom of Scotland. He was regularly summoned to parliament among the barons of the realm from the 27th of Edw. I.

to the 4th of Edward III. the year in which he died.

Sir John de Mohun, the fourth of that name, died in Scotland before his father, and left a son also named John, in whom the male line of this branch of the family ended. Being only ten years of age when his grandfather died, his wardship and marriage were granted to Bartholomew de Burgwash, brother of Henry bishop of Lincoln. During the reign of king Edw. III. this baron served often in the wars of France and Scotland, and he was in the expedition to Flanders in the 47th of that king. He had summons to parliament from the 16th to the 47th of the same reign, and was honoured with the order of the Garter on its first institution. Sir John de Mohun was married to Joan, the daughter of his guardian, but died without a son, leaving three daughters co-heiresses. Of these only Maud the youngest, who was married to Lord Strange, left issue. The male line of the family was now represented by the issue of Sir Reginald, brother of the fourth Sir John, and in the 10th year of king James I. Reginald Mohun of Boconnoc in Cornwall, the chief heir male of this ancient and noble lineage, was created a baronet by letters patent. This gentleman by Philippa his wife, daughter of John Hele, esq. left John his son and heir, who in the 4th year of king Charles I.

was created Baron Mohun of Okehampton. The title became extinct on the 15th of November, 1712, by the death of Charles the fifth baron, in a duel with James, Duke of Hamilton, when both the antagonists were killed.*

OF THE FAMILY OF PRINCE.

JOHN PRINCE, the industrious author of "The Worthies of Devon," and whose name now claims a conspicuous station among them, was born at Newenham abbey. His immediate ancestors, who descended, as he states, from a knightly family in Shropshire,† were settled at Axminster and Kilminster in the sixteenth century, and the race became, after that period, extremely numerous in those and the adjoining parishes. John Prince, of Nower in Kilminster, was an attorney at law, and under-sheriff of the county of Devon when Sir William Pole of Shute filled the office of sheriff in

* The authorities for these notices and for a pedigree much too diffuse for insertion here, have been, in addition to the works quoted, Palsgrave's Parliamentary Writs and Writs of Summons—Camden—Dugdale—The Herald's Visitations—Banks' Peerage—Vincent's Baronage and MSS. in the Heralds Office—Pole—Risdon—Prince—Anstis' MS. notes on Colyton—Nicolas' Siege of Carlaverock, and others.

† Worthies, ed. 1810, p. 313. Coat armour of "Prince of Shrewsbury and Abbey Foregate Shropshire. Gules, a Saltier or, surmounted of a Cross engrailed ermine. Crest: Out of a ducal Coronet or, a Cubit Arm habited gules, cuffed ermine, holding in the Hand proper three Pine apples of the first, stalked and leaved vert: granted 1584." Edmondson.

1603.* John Prince of Nower, gent. believed to be his son, ranked, about the year 1650, among the loyalists of this neighbourhood who were denounced by the ruling authorities as delinquents, and whose crimes, to be shortly recited, were those of having given aid to the king's forces—sent men, horses, and arms—been in arms themselves—lent money and plate—collected money—acted as treasurers—given intelligence—deserted their habitations—resided in the enemy's quarters. We are not informed to what amount Mr. Prince was compelled to compound for his estate. Bernard Prince, supposed to be the brother of that gentleman, possessed a life-hold estate, a part of the Newenham abbey demesne, which he kept in his own cultivation. He was succeeded in the property and in the occupation of it by his eldest son, also named Bernard. His second son, Philip, was a clergyman and schoolmaster at Honiton, and left a family. His third son, Leonard, who was educated at London and Oxford, became the curate of Dalwood, and afterwards prebendary and rector of Ilfracombe in this county. The operation of the act of uniformity obliged him to quit his station in 1662, but after remaining several years a nonconformist, he became reconciled to the discipline of the church,

* Worthies, p. 637.

and accepted the cure of St. John's in the city of Exeter.* He was afterwards preferred to the rectory of Instow near Barnstaple, where he died in the year 1695, and in the church of which parish the following inscription yet remains. "In memory of Leonard Prince, rector of this parish, who made the great embassage committed to him of preaching the gospel to his people the sole and unwearied labour of his life. His sermons were plain, but powerful and convincing; his temper easy and graceful, but bold to reprove vice; for he first did, and then taught men the command of God, that he might not be called least in the kingdom of heaven. And when he found his life no longer useful, he desired and obtained an end to his days, Anno ætatis 73, Anno Domini 1695." In the same church is also a tablet thus inscribed. "In memory of Rebecca daughter of Mr. Leonard Prince, rector of this parish, and of Mary his wife. Obiit 25 Febr. Anno Dom. 1685, ætatis suæ 9. Non quam diù, sed quam benè." To the memory of Leonard Prince, his nephew pays an affectionate tribute, giving him the character of "a pious, powerful, practical preacher, much desired in his life, and much lamented at his death."† The Rev. Leonard

* Nonconformist's Memorial, ed. 1778, p. 441.

† Worthies, p. 313.

Prince was twice married, his first wife was Elizabeth, daughter of John Gough, of Somersetshire, by whom he was the father of William Prince, rector of Clovelly, and of John Prince, a wealthy mercer in London in the reign of William III, inventor of a manufacture known by the name of Prince's Stuff. William Prince, son of William, was rector of Newton Tracy in this county. Bernard Prince of Newenham abbey, the last mentioned, married twice, and in both instances members of ancient and respectable families. His first wife was Mary, daughter of John Crocker of Lynham, esq. by whom he had John Prince his eldest son, and a daughter, Mary. His second wife was Jane, daughter of Philip Drake, of Salcombe, gent. by whom he had Bernard Prince of Newenham abbey, and other children. To the memory of this gentleman a tablet in Axminster Church bears the following inscription.

In
 Memoriam
 Dilectissimi Patris
 Bernardi Prince Gen'si
 Nuper de Abby & Mariæ Crocker
 Uxoris ejus Imæ de Lyneham oriundæ
 Et Janæ Drake uxoris ejus 2dæ ex longo
 Stemmata natæ. Hoc monumentum pietatis ergo Joh'es Prince, A. M. olim
 Vicarius de Totnes, nunc de
 Berry-Pomroy, d'ti Bernardi
 et Mariæ filius, mœrens posuit.
 1709.

John Prince was born as already stated in the farm house on the site of Newenham abbey, in the year 1643. Sir John Drake, then residing at the neighbouring estate of Trill, knight and baronet, was one of his godfathers. We are not told where he received the rudiments of his learning, but he must have made considerable progress in his early education, as he was admitted a student of Brazenose college in Oxford, in June 1660, at the age of seventeen, where also he took his degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1664, and shortly after entered into holy orders. He seems to have commenced his arduous duties as curate to Mr. Gifford rector of Bideford, with whom he remained until that gentleman's decease in 1668. Of this worthy clergyman, who suffered severely in consequence of being deprived of his living during the rebellion, Prince speaks very honourably, and with feelings of esteem alike creditable to both parties.* Having preached a funeral sermon to the memory of his departed friend, he removed to Exeter, where he was unanimously chosen minister of St. Martin's church in the close; and at this time he commenced Master of Arts as a member of Caius College, Cambridge. He remained at Exeter about seven years, and then removed to the vicarage of Totnes. The income

* Worthies, p. 413.

of this living was very small, about £30 a year, and his maintenance was consequently in a great degree dependent upon the contributions of his parishioners, many of whom were probably in those factious times much at variance with their minister, who was a strenuous defender of the rights and principles of the Church of England. It was therefore to the mutual satisfaction of pastor and flock that Sir Edward Seymour, of Berry Castle, presented him in 1681, to the vicarage of Berry Pomeroy, an adjoining parish to Totnes. At this place he remained till his death, a period of forty-two years, during which he was held in great respect by the neighbourhood, and is said to have been much admired for his edifying manner of preaching. His principal published work is "The Worthies of Devon," which consists of biographical sketches of nearly two hundred of the most eminent natives of that county, a book highly valuable to the genealogist and historian, and of the greatest interest to the ancient families of the district, few of which are not directly or incidentally noticed therein. To Sir William Pole, who granted access to his valuable manuscript collections, Prince acknowledges himself highly indebted, and states that they were of great use to him in his undertaking.* It was published in folio in 1701, but a

* Worthies, p. 637.

new and much improved edition, in quarto, was printed in 1810, with notes tracing the descent of many families down to that time. Besides this work, he was the author of the following published tracts, viz. "An humble Defence of the Exeter bill for uniting the parishes, and settling a maintenance upon their ministers." quarto, London, 1674.—"A Sermon, preached in the Cathedral at Exeter on the visitation of bishop Sparrow." 4to. London, 1674.—"A Letter to a young divine, containing some brief directions for composing and delivering of sermons." 8vo. London, 1692.—And "A Sermon against self-murder," to which is added "A Prodigy of Providence, containing the wonderful preservation of a woman of Totnes, who endeavoured, 25th Jan. 1707, to drown herself by leaping over the bridge near twenty-feet high into the river running by that town." 8vo. London, 1709. He was also the writer of some controversial treatises and sermons, which were prepared for publication but never printed;* his life reached the period of eighty years, and closed in 1723, at his vicarage of Berry Pomeroy. He was buried in the chancel there, against the south wall of which a tablet is fixed bearing this meagre inscription. "In memory of the rev'd John Prince, A. M. vicar

* Worthies: Preface.—Wood's Ath. Oxon. ed. 1820. iv. 608.

of this parish, and author of the Worthies of Devon. He was instituted in the year 1681, and died 9th September, 1723." He married a daughter of John Ackland a merchant of Exeter, and niece of Baldwin Ackland, treasurer of Exeter Cathedral; but is not known to have left any children. Materials have been collected for a pedigree of this numerous family, but the unfortunate hiatus of more than a century in the registers of Kilmington parish, renders it difficult to place the several members in their relative positions. The principal branch is said to have settled at Dalwood, and some individuals of the name, though in humble circumstances, still remain in the neighbourhood.

Appendix.

I.

Confirmatio Reg's Henr' ad fundenda' Abbathiam.

Henricus dei gra' Rex angl' D'n's Hib'nie dux Norman'ie acquietan'ie & Comes Andeg' dilect's sibi in Xpo Abb'i & Conventui de bello loco Reg's sal't'm bene volumus & concessim's dil'c'o & fideli n'ro Reginaldo de Moun vt constr'm faciat abbathiam quand'm ordinis Cist'ciens' ap'd axeministr' laudabile p'p'o'tu' suu' in hac p'te ad effectu' optatu' p'd'cens. Q'd quid'm nos gratu' h'entes plurimu' & acceptu' vobis mandam's voluntati n're ad modu' co'uenir's vt de domo n'ra co'uentu' illuc mittat's. Domu' illam de nouo plantata domui v're filiam facientes. Teste me ip'o ap'd Sandelforde xiiij die Julii anno regni n'ri tricesimo.

From the Chartulary of Newenham : fol. 19.

II.

Carta D'ni Reginaldi de Moun de man'io de Axeministr'.

Uniu'sis xpi fidelibz hoc sc'ptu' visur's v'l auditor's Reginald's de Moun sal't'm et'nam in d'no. Novit's me dedisse concessisse & hac p'senti carta mea confirmasse totu' man'iu' meu' de Axeministr' cu' om'ibz p'tin' suis deo & b'e marie virgini & monachis Cist's ord's ib'm deo s'uiuentibz & s'uitur's p' salute a'iar' Will'i Brewer' senioris & Will'i Brewer' junior's & uxor' suar' & p' salute' a'i'e mee & p'ris mei & matris mee & Hawisæ de Moun & Isabellæ Basset vxor' mear' & Will'i de Moun fr's mei & heredu' meor' & om'i

antecessor' & successor' meor' H'end' & tene'd' de me & heredibz meis p'd'c'is mon'chis totu' p'd'c'm man'iu' de Axeministr' cu' hunder' forinseco p'tine'te ad d'c'm man'iu' cu' om'ibz lib'tatibz & lib'is consuetudinibz suis & cu' sectis Mathei de Baunthon & heredu' suor' & p'hi de Greneweie & heredu' suor' & Andr' de Louepitte & heredu' suor' & Will' de Hanuile & heredu' suor' tantum'o ad d'c'm hundred' forinsecu' faciendis de iur' ib' spectantibz aliis s'uiciis & om'i modis exactionibz eor'd'm m'i & heredibz meis in p'p'tuu' retentis & cu' aliis p'tin' suis absque v'llo retineme'to dicti man'ii ad opus meu' & heredu' meor'. Exceptis sect's de me & heredibz meis & except's sect's & consuetudinibz & exactionibz & om'odis demandis om'i alior' h'oi'm meor' de Otry & de Holedych que o'ia m'i & heredibz meis quiete & integre retinui imp'petuu' ad fundenda' ibi & construendam Abbathia' Cist's ord's in honor' d'i et b'e marie v'gi's in p'd'c'o man'io de Axeministr' p' abb'em Belli loci Reg's de cui' domo ad d'c'am abbathiam sumat' q'uent' volo ig' & co'cedo p' me & heredibz meis vt mon'chi ib'm deo s'uietes & servituri h'eant & teneant d'c'm man'iu' cu' o'ibz p'tinenciis suis de me & heredibz meis in lib' puram & p'petuam elemosina' libere quiete & solute ab om'i t'reno s'uitio co'suetudine & demanda & exactione seculari & ab o'ibz sectis placit' causis cancellationibz & querel' que ad me v'l heredes meos de d'c'o man'io aliq' ten' possent p'tiner'. Concedo & ut ip'i mon'chi ib'm Deo s'uietes & s'uituri dictu' man'iu' h'eant & teneant & plenarie possideant integr' b'n' & in pace in villa & ex'a villam in t'ris redditibz eschætis in wardis in releuiis & in o'ibz rebz & loc's cu' om'ibz lib'tatibz & p'tinentiis ad d'c'm man'iu' sp'ctantibz vt p'd'c'm est adeo lib'e quiete b'n' & honorifice sic' aliqua' elemosina' in mu'do lib'ius quiccius & honorific'tius ab aliquo ho'i'e dari pot'it v'l teneri Om'ia v'o s'uicia & exactiones que de d'c'o man'io

Regie potestati debent' v'l deberi potu't ego Reginald's de Moun & heredes mei de aliis t'ris n'ris plenarie acquietabim's & d'c's mon'chos ib'm Deo s'uiantes & s'uituros inde'pnes inde co'servabim's Et ego Reginald's de Moun & heredes mei om'ia p'dicta p'd'e's mon'chis ib'm Deo s'uiantibz & s'uituris co't'a o'es mortalis warantizabim's imp'p'm. Vt h' aut' mea donacio concessio warantizacio & p'sent's carte meo confirmac'o rata' & p'petua' stabilitate' optineant p'sens sc'ptu' sigilli mei impressione roborau. Hiis testibz ven' D'no Ric'o Albo Ep'o Exon' D'no Ric'o fr'e D'ni Regis Comit' Cornub' D'no Symone comit' Leycestrie D'no Will'o de Cantelou senioris Joh'e fil' Gaufr'i' D'no Radulpho fil' Nich' D'no Will'mo de Kantelou Juniori D'no Henr' de Tracy D'no Hug' de Peuerel de Ermyngton D'no Will'o de Raligh D'no Will'o de Moun D'no Hamelino de Audun' D'no Will'o Mallerbe & multis aliis.

From the Chartulary of Newenham ; fol. 20.

III.

The writer of the Chartulary of Newenham abbey in a list of the bishops of Exeter, records the name of Walter Bronescombe under that of "Walt'us de Exon;" and after stating that he had been a generous benefactor to the church of Newenham, proceeds with the following verses. Bishop Walter Stapledon is afterwards honoured with an eulogy in similar style. He had been appointed by king Edward the second to the office of Constable of the Tower of London, and two years after, during the king's absence, the city had been left in his charge. In a fruitless attempt to repress the tumults which ended in the dethroning and murder of the sovereign, this brave and loyal bishop was put to death in Cheapside, on the 15th of October, 1326.—See Walsingham's History, p. 124, and Bayley's History of the Tower of London, 8vo. p. 23.

Walt'us de Exon.

In eccl'ia de Nyweh'm multa bon' fecit.

Plus de viro refera'	Quos gens x'tiane legis
Qualit' & Nyweham	Iussis p'na sum'i regis
Fouet & decorat	Habet p' didasculis
P'ut vobis dicer'	Anne s'c'da q' pie
Possu' necno' pander'	Matri scil't Marie
Plurimu' honorat	S'c'is q' q'iugibz
Ibi multu' laboravit	Q' p' nuptialem vitam
Et thesauros erogavit	Aulam celi co'cupitam
Eoru' laboribus	Habent p' laboribz
Q'd nu'c patet & patebit	In honore Nicolai
Gaudet homo q' gaudebit	P'ce leni qui vult t'hi
Futuris temporibus	Ad opem merent'm
P'mo sex altaria	Om'q' confessor'
P' sua donaria	Qui fragraru't in . . .or'
Ibidem leuauit	Stat altar' tertiu'
Que de dei gracia	Multa post hec fecit ibi
Manu sua p'pria	O tu lector que no' tibi
Post & dedicauit	Modo recitantur
Ex hiis aute' senis aris	Dicant hii de Nyweh'm
Par habet aq'lonaris	Qui p' dei gra'm
Ternas in basilica	Inde iam letant'
Quar' s'c'o Gabrieli	Igitur uos s'c'i dei
Cu'ct's ang'lisq' celi	S'buenite p'cor ei
Dedicatur vnica	Implorantes veniam
Thome m'ri s'c'da	Qui uos tantu' sit honore
Cui' luxit vita mu'da	Et p' x'to sic labore
Cu'ct'sq' mar'ibz	In domo de Nyweh'm
Q' vi crucis tr'mphalis	Hinc uos qui de Nyweh'm
Cap't hostis infernalis	Estis vt memoria'
Triveru't sub pedibz	P'sulis habendo
S'c'e quoq' katerine	Dep'cor ne taceat
Et v'ginibzque sine	Vox laudis s' valeat
Virili concubitu	Gra's agendo
Ara tercia sancit'	Orantes cum credulis
Illis eis & largit'	Pro salute p'sulis
Laus deuoto sp'u	Vos qui sic honorat
Alie quide' tres are	Germinet vt liliu'
Lat' nu'c ad angular'	Ante dei filiu'
Locis stant diuiduis	Pro quo sic laborat
Quar' prima didicat'	Pro Walt'o co'fessore
Joh'i qui plus amat'	Mentis visu cordis ore
In dei discipulis	Rogetis karissimi
Luce s'c'oq' Matheo	Vt in die mort's dire
Cu'ctis & ap'lis	Hu'c dignetur custodir'
	Filius altissimi. Amen.

Walt'us de Stapilton qui decollatus fuit die martis in c'stino s'c'i kalisti pape ap'd London p' magna fidelitate sua in Chep, a'o d'ni mill'o ccc'mo xxvj'o l'ra d'nical' E. Et est sepultus ap'd Exon.

Walt'us ep'c's in Chep decollat's
 Cora' celi ciuibz sit ille beatus
 In quos domestic' sit et honorat'
 Pleno s'c'i sp's dono co'fortatus
 Dicat o'is p'p'lus sui memorat's

Erubescant singuli	Faciendo votu'
Qui res'tu't p'suli	Presentans iudicii
Et insidiantur	Gaudi'u multiplici
Nec sit unde doleat	Hu'c felice' totu'
S'd securus gaudeat	I'hu v'bu' sum'i patris
Et hii confundant'	Serua seruu' tue m'ris
Que' quicu'q' diligu't	P'sulem Devonie
Et qui secu' coligunt	Ne dampnetur p' p'c'tis
Hii sint benedicti	S'd fruatur cu' beatis
Vt cu' dies venerit	Plausu sum'e glorie.
X'us qu' sederit	Amen.

From the Chartulary of Newenham; fol. 111.

IV.

Newenhamensis Abbatia in agro Devoniensi.

Carta Regis Edwardi tertii, donatorum concessionones recitans
 et confirmans.

Rex omnibus ad quos etc. salutem. Donationem concessionem et confirmationem quas Pat. 4. E. III.
 part 1. m. 31.
 Reginaldus de Moun fecit per cartam suam Deo
 et Beatæ Mariæ virgini et monachis Cisterciensis ordinis de toto manerio suo de Axeministre ad fundendam abbaciam ordinis prædicti in honore Dei et B. Mariæ virginis in manerio prædicto, quæ quidem abbacia nunc Neweham nuncupatur, una cum hundredo forinseco pertinente ad dictum manerium, ac libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibus, et sectis Mathei de Maunthon et hæredum suorum, Philippi de Greneweve et hæredum suorum, Andreae de Luuepitte et hæredum suorum et Williel mi

de Hanvill et hæredum suorum, tantummodo ad dictum hundredum faciendum de jure ibidem spectantibus, necnon placitis, causis, querelis, serviciis, redditibus, escactis, wardis, releviis, et omnibus aliis pertinentiis suis, exceptis sectis consuetudinibus, exactionibus, et omnimodis demandis omnium aliorum hominum ipsius Reginaldi de Ottry et Holedich. Remissionem etiam (etc.) quas Ricardus filius Willielmi de Aleth fecit, per scriptum suum, abbati et conventui dicti loci de Neweham de toto jure quod habuit vel habere potuit in manerio de Plenynt et advocacione ecclesiæ ejusdem loci, cum redditibus, homagiis, sectis, wardis, escaetis, fidelitatibus, releviis, herietis, scutagiis, tallagiis, auxiliis, et aliis pertinentiis suis. Remissionem insuper et quietam clamantiam quas Walterus de Aleth filius et hæres Johannis de Aleth fecit per scriptum suum præfatis abbati et conventui et successoribus suis de toto jure quod habuit vel habere potuit in manerio de Plenynt et advocacione ecclesiæ ejusdem loci cum omnibus pertinentiis suis. Donationem (etc.) quas Johannes de Cancellis filius et hæres Egidii de Cancellis fecit per scriptum suum eisdem abbati et conventui et eorum successoribus de manerio de Plenynt in Cornubia et advocacione ecclesiæ ejusdem manerii cum omnibus pertinentiis suis. Remissionem insuper et quietam clamantiam quas Johannes de Calvo-monte, filius et hæres Bartholomei de Calvomonte, et Isabellæ uxoris ejus fecit per scriptum suum præfatis abbati et conventui et successoribus suis de manerio de Plenynt et advocacione ecclesiæ ejusdem loci cum omnibus pertinenciis suis. Donationem (etc.) quas Ricardus Wranghe fecit (etc.) de toto tenemento suo de Wrangaheth, cum pratis, pascuis, pasturis, aquis, redditibus, et omnibus aliis pertinentiis suis. Donationem (etc.) quas Thomas Stede filius et hæres Radulphi Stede fecit (etc.) de tota terra sua quam habuit in manerio de Axeministre cum ædificiis, curtellis (etc.). Donationem

(etc.) quas Henr. de Burton et Mabilla uxor ejus fecerunt per cartam suam eisdem abbati et conventui de toto tenemento suo cum pratis (etc.) quod habuerunt apud Sapwike in manerio de Axeministre de dono Ricardi de Burton. Donationem (etc.) quas Alicia de Tynten Caleweheigh fecit per cartam suam eisdem abbati (etc.) de toto illo tenemento et terra quæ Philippus Rog. de Schapewyk quondam tenuit apud Schapewick in manerio de Axeministre; et eciam de tota terra et prato quæ eadam Alicia habuit de dono Johannis de Schapewyk ibidem cum eurtillis (etc.). Relaxationem eciam (etc.) quas Johannes de Tynten miles filius et hæres Aliciæ de Tynten fecit (etc.) de toto jure et clamio quæ habuit (etc.) in toto illo tenemento et terra quæ Philippus Rog de Schapewyk tenuit apud Schapewyk (etc.) Donationem insuper (etc.) quas Nicholaus de Boleville fecit per cartam suam eisdem abbati (etc.) de viginti (etc.) quinque solidatis et quatuor denaratis annui redditus quas Alexander de Chelesham et hæredes sui aliquando eidem Nicholao reddere consueverunt de terris quas de ipso tenuerunt in Kilmeton in com. Devon et Dalwud in com. Dors. cum wardis (etc.). Donationem (etc.) quas Robertus nuper abbas monasterii beatæ Mariæ de Gresten et ejusdem loci conventus fecerunt per scriptum suum eisdem abbati et conventui de Neweham de sexaginta solidatis annui redditus quas aliquando prædicti abbas et conventus de Gresten percipere consueverunt de quodam manerio quod vocatur Northon in Cornubia: et de toto jure et clamio quæ predicti abbas et conventus de Gresten unquam habuerunt vel habere potuerunt in prædicto manerio de Northon cum omnibus pertinentiis suis ratas habentes et gratas eas pro nobis et hæredibus nostris quantum in nobis est (etc.) confirmamus (etc.) In cujus (etc.) T. R. apud Wodestok primo die Aprilis.

From Dugdale's *Monasticon Anglicanum*,
Vol. i., p. 929.

V.

“Inquisitio Anno XVIII, Edw. III.

Jur' dic' q'd non est ad dampnu' si Rex concedat Thome Fychet Ch'r q'd ip'e duo mesuagia in Axeminstre, Gilberto Dumfrevyle q'd ip'e tres acras terre cum p'tin' in eadem villa. Ric'o de Okebeare q'd ip'e unam acram terre cum p'tin' in eadem villa. Rob'to de Lieu q'd ip'e vnu' mesuagiu' in Exon' Joh'e de Ralegh ch'r q'd ip'e vnu' mesuagiu' in eadem villa et Joh'i de Carreu q'd ip'e unam acram terre cum p'tin' in Lovepitt dare et concedere possint Abb'i et conventui de Nywenham h'end' et tenend' eisdem Abb'i et successoribz suis imp'p'm in partem satisfacc'onis x'm librat' terre et redditus quos eis p' l'ras paten' d'ni R'x tam in feodo suo proprio q'm alieno concessit adquirend'. Et dicunt q'd p'd'c'us Thomas Fychet ten' p'd' duo mesuagia cum p'tin' in Axminstre de p'd'c'o Abb'e de Nywenham p' servic' et reddit' ijs. p' ann' p' o'i servicio. Et val' p' an' xijd. ultra p'd'c'um reddit' ijs. Et q'd p'd' tres acr's terre ib'm tenen' de eccl'ia' de Axminstre p' reddit' vid. p' an'. Et val' p'd' tres acre' terre vltra p'd'c'am redditu' vid. Et p'd'c'us Ric'us de Okebeare ten' p'd'c'am un' acram terre de p'd'c'a eccl'ia' de Axminstre p' servic'm jd. et val' ultra p' r' ij d. p' an'. Et p'd'c'us Rob'tus de Lieu ten' p'd'c'um mesuagiu' in exon' de eccl'ia' S'cti Petri Exon' p' servic' reddend' un' Cerei p' an' et val' d'c'm mesuagiu' iij s. p' an'. Et q'd p'd'c'us Joh'es de Ralegh ch'r ten' p'd'c'm mesuagiu' de eadem eccl'ia' p' serviciu' vn' cerei et val' p' an' iij s. viij d. Et q'd p'd'c'us Joh'es de Carreu ten' p'd'c'am acram terre de Rob'to le Fitzpayne p' serviciu' militare et val' p' an' ij d. Et dic' q'd p'd'c'us Thomas Fichet ten' p'd'c'a' mesuagia' de p'd'c'o Abb'e et conventu' de Nyweham et idem Abbas de Joh'e Mohun et ip'e Joh'es de d'no Rege in capite p' serviciu' militare. Et dicunt q'd Abb'ia p'd'c'a de Nywenham fundatur p' antecessores d'c'i Joh'is de Mohun.

Et q'd reman' p'fat' Thome Fichet militi ultra donac'onem et assignaco'em p'dict' Man'iu' de Spaxton in com' Som's' ten't de Jacobo de Audley p' serviciu' militare. Et val. p' an' ultra repris' xx li."

Inquisitiones temp. Hen. III. Edw. I. II. III. in com. Devon. MS. in Bibl. Harl. no. 6126, p. 3. fol. 20.

At the close of this curious volume appears the following memorandum.

"Hoc opus finitum et extractum de originalibus recordis (vnde non est aliqua copia) xij die Decembris a'od'ni 1617, studio et labore Scipionis Squyer generosi et manu suo p'prio. Laus Deo. Tibi proficuu' mihi gratias."

Scipio Squire was sworn Deputy Chamberlain of the Exchequer on the 30th. of November, 1620.

VI.

Neweh'm.

Edwardus Dei gratia rex Angliæ et Franciæ et d'us Hib'n'æ omnibz ad quos presentes literæ p'venerint s'l't'm. Inspeximus carta' quam Raginaldus de Moun quonda' comes Somers' et dom'us de Dunsterre scr'it in hæc v'ba Sciant p'sentes et futuri q'd ego Riginaldus de Moun comes Som'set et d'nus de Dunsterre dedi concessi et hæc p'senti carta mea confirmavi Deo et beatæ Mariæ virgini et Monachis Cestercii ordinis Deo servientibus et servituris totu' maneriu' meu' de Axaministre cu' omnibz membris et pertinen' suis ad fundendam Abbatia' ib'm in honorem S'ti Trinitatis et S'c'æ Marie virginis in loco qui Neweh'm vocatur in eodem Manerio cu' tota jure quod ad francu' perlegiu' pertinet in dicto Manerio et Membris cum hundredo forinseco et intrinseco cu' o'ibus eor' pertinentiis et cu' omnibus sectis presentac'onibz apparicionibz et p'clamac'onibus suis quæ ad lib'a hundred' p'tinere

dinoscuntur cu' toto horderisgildo de Roverege cu' omnibz p'tinen' suis cu' omnibus animalibus quæ vocantur wayfs et stravre cum omnibus pertinentiis et cum turfo (turno) vicecomitis in eodem hundredo cu' omnibz pertinen' suis cum omnibz sectis p'sentac'onibz et dictam'tis amerciamentis et cu' omnibus auxiliis ad eundem turnum spectantibus. Quæ quidem auxilia Combe Bampton Yertecombe Estmembiri Wicroft Smalregge an'uatim solvere debent sicut ab antiquo solvere solebant cum dictum maneriu' in manibz Regum fuit et cum feria' et mercata' hactenus ib'm usitatis cu' omnibus eoru' pertinentiis et cu' tota' piscaria' in ripario de Axe cu' omnibz pertinen' suis et cum omnibz libertatibz et liberis consuetudinibus in supradictis manerio et membris franco pellegio hundredo horderisgilde animalibz Turnio vicecomitis auxilia et piscaria cu' omnibz eoru' pertinentiis habendis et tenendis de me et heredibus meis sive assignatis p'dictis Monachis et eor' successoribz predict' maneriu' membra franciperlegia hundreda horderisgild animalia turnum vicecomitis auxilia feriam mercata (marcatum) et piscariam cu' omnibus eoru' pertinentiis libertatibus et liberis consuetudinibz in lib'am puram et perpetuam elemosina' in villis et extra villas in terris redditibus escheetis in wardis releviis homagiis sectis et sentac'onibus feoditatibus auxiliis gildis aquis molendinis nemoribus pascuis pratis warenis antiquis dominicis et in omnibus rebus et locis in omnibz libertatibus et pertinenciis ad dicta' maneria' spectan' ut predictu' est adeo libere quiete bene et pacifice et honorifice sicut aliqua elemosina in mundo liberius quietius et honorificentius ab aliquo homo mortali dari poterit vel teneri omnia vero terene (terena) servitia et exactiones quæ dicto manerio membris sup'num'atis regie potestati debentur vel deberi poterunt in futuri alicui hominum mortali. Ego Reginaldus de Moun hæredes mei et assignati de omnibz alliis terris f'uris ubicunq' jacentibz plenarie acquietabimus et

dictos Monachos indempnes conservabimus imp'p'tuu'. Et ego Reginaldus de Moun et heredes mei et assignati p'dict' manerium membra franceplegiu' hundredv' horderisgild a'malia turnum vicecomitis auxilia feria marcatu' et piscaria p'dictis monachis et eor' successoribz contra omnes mortales warrantizabimus acquietabimus et defendemus per universos dies seculi. In cujus rei testimonia sigillu' meu' aposui hiis testibus venerabilibz D'nus Will'mo Exon' et Will'mo Bathe et Welles Epis' D'no Rich' fratre d'ni Regis comiti Cornub' D'nus S. Comiti Lecestrie. W. Comiti Oxon'. Johanni filio Galfridi Raudon filio Huberti. Hugone Tracy Hugone Peverell de Ervyngton Hugone de Andover Will'mo de Malherbe militi et multis aliis. Nos autem donatione' concession' et confirmac'o'em p'dictas ratas habentes et gratas da's p' nobis et hæredibz n'r'is quant' in nobis est dilectis nobis in Chr'o nunc Abbati et conventui dicti loci de Nywehame et successoribz suis tenore pre'ntium concedimus et confirmaui'us pro ut contra p'dicta racional'r testatur. In cujus rei testimon'm has l'ras n'ras fieri fecimus patentes Teste me ipso apud Westmon' sexto die Martii anno regni n'ri Angl'e quarto decimo Regno vero n'ro francæ - - -

From a MS. in the Lansdowne Library in the British Museum; No. 447, fol. 10, being Collections styled "Monasterialia" made by Sir Richard St. George, Clarencieux Herald, in 1624.

VII.

"A coppie of . . . Letters patents from . . . Crowne of the mannor of Axmister given to the abbot of Newham dated 7 May 2d Hen 8th"

"**Rex** om'ibz ad quos etc. Sal't'm. Inspeximus l'ras patent's d'ni H. nup' regis Angl' septimi p'ris n'ri p'charissimi de confirmac'o'e fact' in hec verba

Henricus Dei gra' Rex Angl' et Franciæ et d'n's
Hib'nie Om'ibz ad quos p'sentes l'ræ p'ven'int Sal't'm Inspex-
imus l'ras patentes d'ni E. quarti nup. Regis Angl' de confir-
mac'o'e fact' in hæc verba

Edwardus Dei gra' Rex Angl' et Franc' et
d'nus Hib'niæ Om'ib's ad quos presentes l'ræ p'ven'int Sal'-
t'm Inspeximus cartam confirmac'e' d'ni R. nup' Regis An-
gliæ progenitoris n're fact' in hæc verba

Ric'us Dei gra' Rex Angl' et Franc' et
d'nus Hib'niæ Om'ib's ad quos presentes l'ræ p'ven'int Sal't'm
Inspeximus cartam d'ni H. quondam Regis Angl' progenitoris
n'ri in hæc verba.

Henricus Dei gra' Rex Angl' et Dux
Norman' et Acquit' et comes Andeg' Archiep'is Ep'is Abb'ibz
Prioribz Comitibz Barronibz Justic' Vicecomitibz Ministris et
om'ibz fidelibz suis Sal't'm Sciatis nos concessisse et in lib'am
puram et p'petuam elemosinam confirmasse Abb'i et monachis
de Nyweham et eor' successoribz totum manerium de Axmynster
cum p'tin et membris suis videl't Bewer Stedeheygh Wrang-
heygh Stamerleggh Furseyeygh Shapewyk Bruweheygh Tud-
deheygh et Bachalre cum om'ibz d'c'os membror' et p'tin'
sicut Reginaldus de Moun et alii multi donatores d'c'a mane-
rii' et membra eis in lib'am puram et p'petuam elemosinam
dederunt et cum hundred' for' de Axemynster et om'ibz p'tin'
suis et cum novem solidis et decem denariis de gildo Hordagii
p' ann' apud Roverigg cu' om'ibz et catallis quæ vocant' weyfs
et stray' in d'c'is manerio et hundred' cum om'ibz membris
et locis eor'dem arriven' unacum om'ibz bonis et catallis
fugitivor' waviator' ut lagat' latronu' et dampnat' cum
soca et saca tol et thema infangenethef et unfangenethef et
om'ibz aliis lib'tatibz aliquo modo spectan' Et etiam cum
turno vicecomitu' in toto hundr'o pred'c'o cum auxiliis sect'
et cet'is om'ibz ad eundem turnu' p'tinen' et tota piscar' in

ripar' de Axe et aque de Yerty cum om'ibz p'tin' suis et cum sufficient' itin'e p 'se et piscatoribz suis in t'ra cuiuscumq' ex utraq' parte aque et riparii p'd'e'or. Concessimus etiam et confirmavim's d'e'is Abb'i et monachis et successoribz suis maneria de Plument cum advocac'one eccl'ie de Norton cum Westorchard in Cornub' cum om'ibz membris et pertin' suis Volumus insup' et concedimus q'd omnes ho'i'es et feminae d'e'or Abb'is et monachor' cuiuscunq' fu'int condic'o'e quieti sunt per totum regnum n'r'm Angl' Hib'n' et Wall' de omni'od' Theloneo tallagio passagio pedagio lastagio stallagio hidagio wardagio et de om'ibz aliis op'ibz et auxiliis quibuscunq' Quare voluim's et firmiter p'cipimus q'd p'd'e'i Abbas et Monachi et successores sui h'eant et teneant om'ia pred'c'a bene et in pace lib'e et quiete et honorifice sine aliquo ten'o servicio et seculari demand' Testæ d'no Petro Winton' Ep'o. H. Lincoln' electo. E. fil Petri comite Essex. Albredo de Veer comite Oxon. H. Nevill. Dat p. manu' n'ram in Burd' in obsidione anno Regni n'ri tricessimo primo.

Nos autem cartam pred'c'am et om'ia et sing'la in ea content' rata h'entes et grata ea pro nob' et heredibz n'ris ratificamus et approbamus ac dil'c'is nob' in X'to nunc Abb'i et conventui loci pred'c'i et successoribz suis concedim's et confirmavim's sicut carta pred'c'a r'onabilit' testat' et p'ut iidem Abbas et conventus et p'decessores sui pred'c'a maneria membra hundred' reddit' et piscar' cum p'tin ac advocac'onem pred'c'am r'onabiliter h'uerunt et tenuerunt ac lib'tatibz et quietanc' p'dict' r'onabiliter usi sunt et gauisi. In cujus rei testimoniu' has l'ras n'ras fieri fecimus patentes. Teste meip'o apud Westm' decimo octavo die octobris anno regni n'ri decimo septimo.

Nos autem cartam pred'c'am ac om'ia et singula contenta in eadem rata ea h'entes et grata ea pro nob' et heredibz n'ris quantum in nob' est acceptam's et approbamus

ac dil'c'is nob' in X'to nunc Abb'i et conventui loci p'd'c'i et successoribz suis ratificamus et confirmavimus prout carta pred'c'a r'onabilit' testat' In cuiusrei testimoniu' has l'ras n'ras fieri fecimus patentes. T. me ip'o apud Westm' vicesimo quarto die Julii anno regni n'ri s'c'do.

*N*os autem cartas et l'ras pred'c'as ac om'ia et singula in eisdem content' rata h'entes et grata ea pro nobis et heredibz n'ris quantum in nob' est acceptam's approbam's ac dil'c'is nob'in X'to nunc Abb'i et conventui loci p'dict' et successoribz suis tenore pred'c'a ratificamus et confirmauim's p'ut carte et l'ræ p'dict' r'onabilit' testant'. In cujus rei testimoniu' has l'ras n'ras fieri fecimus patentes. T. me ip'o apud Westm' duodecimo die Junii anno regni n'ri primo.

*N*os autem eartas et l'ras pred'c'as ac omnia et singula in eisdem content' rata h'entes et grata ea pro uob' et heredibz n'ris quantum in nob' est acceptamus et approbamus ac dil'c'is nob' in X'to Joh'i nunc Abb'i et conventui loci p'dict' et successoribz suis tenore p'sent'm ratificam's et confirmavim's p'ut carte et l'ræ sup'd'c'æ r'onabilit' testant'. In cujus rei &c. T. R. apud Westm. vij o Maii Anno Regni R's Henrici Octavi S'c'do

P. quadrigint' solid' solut' hanapio.

Transcribed from a document among the papers of the late Mr. Frampton.

VIII.

Valor Ecclesiasticus temp' Henr' VIII. auctoritate regia institutus.

Excerpta ex. Vol. II. p. 289.

Com' Devon'.

Henricus Octavus Dei gra' Angl' et Franc' Rex Fidei Defensor Dominus Hib'nie et in t'ra Sup'ma' capud Anglicane

Eccl'ie Rev'endo in X'to P'ri J' Ep'o Exon' ac dil'e'is et fide-
 libz n'ris - - - - - Majori Civitatis Exon' Will'o Cour-
 teney Militi Thome Denys Mil' Edwardo Pom'ey Mil' Ric'o
 Greynvile Mil' Ph'o Champ'nen Mil' Bartho' Fortescue An-
 dree Hillersden Ric'o Hals Joh'i Gilbert Rog'o Blewet Hum-
 fr'o Prideaux Hugoni Pollard Thome Syddenham Alex' Wood
 Ric'o Pollard Johi' Harries Hugoni Yeo Will'o Symondes
 Joh'i Hull Joh'i Forde de Ashep'ton Audit' Joh'i Southcote
 de Bovetracy Audit' Ad'e Williams Audit' Thome Buysaunce
 de civitate Exon' Auditori et Joh'i Thomas Auditori Sal't'm.
 Sciatis q'd nos de fidelitatibz et p'vidis circumsp'ec'o'ibz v'ris
 plenius confidentes assignavim's vos quinq' quatuor vel tres
 v'r'm Dantes vob' ac quinq' quatuor et tribz v'rm vel in majori
 aut minori p'ut p' discre'o'es v'ras vob' melius visum fu'it ple-
 nam potestatem et auctoritatem ad inquirend' scrutand et ex-
 aminand' viis modis et mediis quibus melius scire pot'itis ta' in-
 fra com' n'r'm Devon q'm infra civitatem Exon' et lib'tat' ejus-
 dem de om'ibz et sing'lis artic'lis et instrucc'o'ibz p'sentibz
 annex' faciend' q' exequend' cum eff'c'u p'ut in eisdem arti-
 culis plenius continet'r. Et ideo vob' mandam's firmit' injun-
 gentes q'd circa p'missa effect'alit' intendatis ac ea fac' et
 exequamini diligent' ita q'd v'itatem de eisdem articulis et de
 eor' singulis h'ere pot'im' absq' favore fraude dolo corrup'c'o'e
 seu covina p'ut vos inde nob' respondere velitis. Et quicquid'm
 p'missis fec'itis Thesaurario Cancellar' Camerarijs et Baronibz
 de Sc'ca'io n'ro inde et de om'ibz suis circumstantijs eor'dem
 p'ut articuli p'd'c'i in se exigunt et requirunt in octabis S'e
 Trinitatis p'x' futur' sub sigillis v'ris distincte et ap'te in
 debita forma in scriptis c'tificetis. Et hoc sub p'iculo incum-
 bente nullatenus omittatis, Dam's etiam p'tea vob' plenam
 potestatem et auctoritatem ad tales et tantos scribas registra-
 rios et eor' deputatos ac receptores auditores et alios officarios
 et ministros quor'cumq' p'lator' et cl'icor' eccle'ie coram vob'

convocand et exa'iand' p'ut vob' p' meliori execuc'o'e articu-
lor' p'd'c'or' videbit' expedire Mandantes insup' tenore p'sent'
om'ibz et singulis Vicecomitibz Majoribz Ballivis. Registrarijs
ac aliis Officiarijs et Ministris tam n'ri q'm aliquor' p'lator' seu
cl'icor' quor'cumq' ac alijs om'ibz et singulis fidelibz subditis
n'ris quibuscumq' q'd vob' in execuc'o'e p'missor' de tempore
in tempus intendentes sint et auxiliantes p'ut decet. In cujus
rei testimoniū has l'ras n'ras fieri fecim's patentes. T. me
ip'o apud Westm' tricesimo die Januarii anno r' n' vicesimo
sexto.

IX.

Extracts from a Roll in the Augmentation Office, con-
taining the Minister's accounts on a survey of the Newenham
abbey estates. A. D. 1540.

Nup' Mon' de Newneham.

Comp'a omn' et sing'lor' Ball' p'pos' firmar' et al' min-
istror' computabil' omn' et sing'lor' h'nd'or' manior' terr' ten'
rector' pencion' et porcion' ac al' possession' quar'cumq' t'm
sp'ual' q'm temp'al eid'm nup' mon' p'tin viz. de festo s'c'i mich'is
arch'i anno r'r' Henr' viij'o xxxj'o usq' id'm f'm s'c'i mich'is
arch'i extunc p'x' sequen' anno regni eiusd'm d'ni R' xxxij 'o
sciz. p' unu' annu' integru' vt infra. videl't.

Scit' d'c'i nup' mon' cu' terr' diu's eid'm p'tin' - - - -
grung' de Shapwike Beu' et Fursleigh p'cell' dict' terr' d'nical'.

Compu's Henr' m'chion' Dors' firmar' scit' ib'm et Joh'is
Drake firmar' grung' p'dict' p' temp' p'd'c'm - - - -

Firm scit' p'dict' cu' terr' d'nic' eid'm p'tin'.

Sed id' de xxiiij. xs. de firm' scit' p'dict' eid' ort' poma-
ri' gardin' terr' p'at' pascuis et pastur' voc' Hordeway New-
close Horselease Conys Pochycrofte Bowryfelde Chappelleclose
Smythclose Ballelake Wallmylcloses Kingsfelde ac xxx acr'

p'at' in Brodemedede ult'a j acr' di' in eod'm p'ato in occiden'
 p'te' de Travilyans acr' p' Thoma Denys mil'e de nup' abb'e
 ib'm p'quis' Barsmede Strayersmede ac p'ma tonsura viij acr'
 in Ruddemedede et j molend' aquat' ib'm cu' om'ibz s' p'tin' sic
 dimiss' Henr' marchion' Dors' p' inden' d'ni R's adhuc non
 ostens' sol' ad festu' an'u'c'o' b'te marie virginis et s'c'i mi-
 ch'is arch'i p' equal' porcion'.

Et de vj l. de firm' cert' claus' p'ati et pastur' voc' Rowgh-
 mershe Nether Slymylake et Midell Slymylake ac' al' claus'
 pasturi voc' le m'sshe cu' om'ibz s' p'tin' sic dimiss' Thome
 Denys mil' p' t'mo xxj annor' p' inden' d'ni R' dat' sub sigill'
 cur' Augmentac' reuen' corone s' - - - - - die - - - - -
 anno regni s' - - - - sol' ad festa' p'd'c' equis porcion' p'ut
 in ead'm inden' plenius cont'. S'ma xxixli. xs.

Firm grang' de Shapwike Beu' et Fursleigh.

Sc' de xxli de firm' toci' ill' mes' sive graung' voc' Shap-
 wike cu' om'bz terr' - - - - - die' d'ni Joh'i Drake Ric'o et
 Rob'to fil' s' p' t'mo vite eor' p' inden' dat' sub sigillo com'
 eid' nup' mon' p'd'c'o ultimo die decembr' anno r'r' Henri'
 viij xxvij sol' ad iiij anni t'mi'os - - - - Et de xxl de firm ij
 mess' siue graung' voc' Bever et Fursleigh cu' om'ibz terr'
 - - - - S'ma xl li.

Axmyster man'iu' cu' terr' in Westwater p'cell d'ci
 man'ii

Comp'us Rob'ti Hamlyn ball' ib'm p' tempus p'd'c'm
 S'ma vi s ix d.

Redd' lib'or' tenen' S'ma iiij li. xvij s.

Redd' custum' tenen' in Westwater et in dec' de Cleyhill
 S'ma xvj li. ij s. ij d.

Redd' custum' tenen' in Axmynstr'

- - - - -
 Et de viij s. iiij d. de redd' pasturi vocat' Brewheys in te' Alic'
 Waren'.

- - - - -
Et de x s. iiij d. de redd' j ten' cu' p'tin' voc' Persebroke.

- - - - -
Et de xx s. de redd' Johane Mallocke vid' p' pastur' et terr'
arrab' vocat' Simondsdowne.

- - - - -
Et de xvj s. de redd' d'u'is p'cell' terr' voc' le p'ke in te'a
Joh'is Treynough.

Et de lx s. de redd' ffirm' marcat' et shamelli ib'm in te'a
Joh'is Long, jun'r.

- - - - -
Et de iij s. de redd' j cotag. cu' s' p'tin' j clo' jac' apud le
great stone et j acr' p'at' jacent' apud Uphaymede in te'a
Ric'i Kentisbere.

- - - - -
Et de x s. de redd' cert' terr' p'cell' terr's et pastur' voc'
Secktor in te'a dicti Andr'i Sayward.

Et de iij d. recept' de eod'm Andr' p' licenc' h'end' ad pis-
cand' in sp'al' aqua cu' j ret' voc' a lombe in te'a dict' Andr'
sol' ad e' t'.

- - - - -
Et de vjs. de redd' cert' p'cell' terr's voc' Clokeham in te-
nur' Rob'ti Pennyne.

- - - - -
Et de vjs. viij d. de redd' j ten' cu' s' p'tin' et j claus' cu'
grova in eod'm vocat' kyngsley in tenur' Thome Crabbe.

- - - - -
Et de xvjd. de redd' j burg. in Lyme R's in te'a Rob'ti Phillips.

- - - - -
Et de ijs. de redd' dimid' acr' p'ati jacent' p'pe Coldchar-
brough ex p'te occiden' de Slymelake.

Et de iiij d. de redd' medietat' j domo voc' le churchouse in
te'a Nich'i Bonor et Joh'is Bonor.

S'ma xlvij li. xij s. iij d.

Firm' molend'

Et de C s. firm' ij molend' gran' sub uno tecto ib'm voc'
le custommylls cu' lib'e pisca'o ac al' jur' - - - d'ni Jacobo
Notte armig' Nich'o Wyenall et Thome Wyenall p' t'mo vite
eor' p' inden' dat' sub sigill' com'un' ib'm xvj die Novembr'
anno r'r' Henr' viij xxv to. S'ma C s.

Vend' op'u'.

Et de iij s. ix d. de vend' op'u' d'nis custum' tenen' ib'm
viz. de Ric'o Woode xvij d. Will'mo Whitmore xx d. Joh'is
Hill ix d. Alis Warryn ix d. S'ma iij s. ix d.

Firm' piscar' de Exmouth.

Et de xls. de firm' piscar' tocius aque de Exmouth sic
dimiss. Henr. Marchion. Dors. p' inden' d'ni R's adhuc non
ostens' S'ma xls.

Exit' nund'

Et de xls. de exit' sive p'fic' Nund' ib'm hoc anno te-
n't' sic dim' Joh'i Lock ad voluntate p' ann'. Et de iij s. iiij d.
re' de eod'm Joh'e Lock p' quod'm redd' p' pulsar' campan' ad
hund' p'dict' ex antiq' cons'e sic sibi si'lit' ad volunt'

S'ma xliij s. iiij d.

P'quis' cur' S'ma xxij s. iij d.

S'ma tot'lis re't ad arr'iis lxxix l. viij s. vj d.

Ex quibz

Feod' et vad' S'ma lxxv s. iiij d.

Expen' ten' cur' S'ma xxiiij s. vj d.

Resolut' redd' Priori s'c'i Joh'is Jerusale' London ad
com'aundri s' de Buckland exeunt' ex'a quod'm mes' et j acr'
terr' infra p'cinct' man' ij de Axmystr' p'z qu' cart' indent'.

S'ma xvij d.

Defect' redd' S'ma ix s. iiij d.

Lib' denar' Lib'at' Thome Arundell mil' rec' d'n'
Reg's ib'm de exit' offic' lxxj li. — iiij d.

S'ma alloc' lib'at' p'dict' lxxvj li. — xij d.
q' debet lxxvij s. vj d. — alloc' ei iiij s.

Eo debet lxiij s. vj d. unde

Will' Pery de lib' redd' p' Copyhayes xiiij s. vj d. }
D'n' Henric' Marc' Dors' firm' piscar xl s. } lxiij s. vj d.
Joh'em Lock. x s.

Axmyster hund' Comp'us Thome Denys militz ball'
ib'm p' tempus p'd'c'm.

P'quis cur' cu' cert' redd'

Sed r' lxxvij s. v d. ob. de {p'quis' cur' hundredi ib'm
- - - - - cu' xxiiij s. iiij d. ob. de cert' redd' Gildhorde so-
lut' p' d'nis decennari hundred' ib'm unacu' xx s. vi d. de fine
liber' tenent' ij s. viij d. de fin' decennari ij s. de fin' Sensar'
vij s. ij d. de bon' felon' S'ma lxxvij s. v d. ob.

S'ma tot'lis Re't' lxxvij s. v d. ob.

De quibz

Feod' et vad' Feod ball' xx s. Stipend' alia.
audit' scriben' ij s. S'ma xxij s.

Expen' sen'l' S'ma xxd.

Lib'at'denar' Thome Arundell lij s xj d. ob.

S'ma alloc' et lib'at' p'dict' lxxvij s. v d. ob.

Norton. Comp'us Degorij Grenefelde ball' ib'm p' tem-
pus id'm.

Redd' lib'or' tenen' S'ma vs.

Redd' custum' tenen' S'ma xviiij li. xvij s.

P'quis cur' S'ma iiij s. vj d.

S'ma tot'lis xix li. v s. vj d.

Feod' et vad' Ball' xvj s. S'ma xxiiij s. viij d.

Expen' sen'l' S'ma xvj d.

Libar' Denar' S'ma xij l. xix s. vj d.

S'ma alloc' et libar' p'dict' xiiij l. v s. vj d.

Plenynt man'iu' cu' Rector' Comp'us Will'm Achym p'pos'.
 Redd' lib'or' tenen' S'ma xxxv s. iiij d. ob.
 Redd' tam eustum' q'm conu'tu' ten't'.

Sma. xxjl. vj s. vij d.

Firm' rector'. Et de xiiij li. de firm' decim', fruct' garb'
 et gran' p'ven' infra' p'ochiam de Plenynt d'nu' p'fat' comput'
 p' t'mo xix annor' p' indent' dat' xx die augustii anno xxvij mo.
 R. Hen. viij. S'ma xiiij. li.

P'quis'cur' S'ma xj s. x d.

S'ma tot'lis R. xxxvij l. xij s. ix d. ob.

Feod' et vad' P'pos' ib'm xxx s. S'ma lij s.

Expen' sen'l' v s.

Libar' denar' S'ma xxxiiij li. xvj s. ix d. ob.

S'ma alloc' et lib'as p'dict' xxxvij l. xij s. ix d. ob.

Rectori' de Lovpytt ac cert' terr' in Exon'

Comp'us Joh'is Morne ball' ib'm p' tem' ib'm

Firm' rectori' Et xij l. xij s. iiij d. de firm' decim'
 garb' rectori p'dict' p' ann' sic dimiss' Georg' Carew mil' p' t'm'
 vite de quinquenno in quinquenno p' inden' dat' xxv marc'
 anno R. Hen. viij xxix. S'ma xij l. xij s. iiij d.

Terr' glebe Et de lxx s. ij d. de toto redd' cert' terr'
 gleb' p' ann' p'tin' rectori p'dict' lxx s. ij d.

Redd' Exon' Et de xx s. de redd' j burg' in tenur' Joh'is
 Waye — v s. de redd' j burg' in ten' Joh'is Bower — v s. de
 redd' j burg' in ten' Johanne Noseworthy. Et de ij s. de redd'
 j gard' in ten' Joh'is Cheryton. Et de ijs de redd' j burg'
 in ten' Joh'is Boler. Et de x s. redd' j burg' in ten' Joh'
 Davy S'ma xliij s.

S'ma tot'lis. xvij l. ij s. vj d.

De quibz

Feod' et vad' Ball' lij s. iiij d. S'ma lv s. iiij d.

Libar' denar' Thome Arundell mil'. xv li. vij s. ij d.

S'ma alloc' et lib'ar' p'dict' xvij l. ij s. vj d.

X.

Literæ patentes 12^o. Febr' A^o. 5^o. Eliz. R'ne.

Regina omnibz ad quos etc. sal'tem. Sciatis q'd
 Princeps Thomas Dux Norf' Comes Marshall, etc. de gra'
 n'ra Dedim's et concessim's ac p' p'sentes p' nob' hered'
 et success' n'ris. Dam's et concedimus p'fat' Thomæ Duci
 Norf' (inter alia) totum illum Scitum Circuitum et p'cinctum
 n'rm nup' monasterii de Newham al's dict' Newenham in com'
 n'ro Devon Ac om'ia domos edificia stabula terr' fundum
 solum pomar' vinar' et gardina infra Scitum' circuitum et
 p'cinctum ejusdem nup' monast'ii ac eidem nup' monaster'
 p'tinen' seu spectan' ac om'ia terr' d'nical' prat' pasc' et pastur'
 n'ra eidem nup' monast'ii adjacen' et p'tinen' cum suis p'tin'
 nup' in tenura' sive occupac'o'e Henrici nup' Ducis Suff' de
 de alt'a p'dic'o'e nuper attinct vel assign' suor' necnon om'es
 ill' Claus' terr' prat' et past' n'ras cum suis p'tin' univers'
 vocat' Rowmarshe et Mydleylyme Lake ac om'es illas
 clausur' n'ras voc' le Marshe cum suis p'tin nup' in tenura
 Thomæ Dennys Militis defunct' scituat' in d'c'o com'
 Devon' nup' Monast' de Newham. spectan' et pertin'
 Ac om'ia illa tria mesuagia firmas sive grangias n'ras. . . . Shap-
 wyke graunge Bever et Farleigh graunge cum suis p'tin'
 modo vel nup' in tenur' sive occupacio'ibz Joh'is Drake Ric'i
 et Rob'ti filior' eiusdem Joh'is ac eciam om'ia. . . . mesuagia
 molendina domos (etc. etc.) aquas aquar' cursus piscar' pis-
 piscac'o'es stagn' (etc. etc. etc.) terr' gleb' decimas garb' g'nor'
 et feni ac alias decimas quascunq' fructus obvenc'o'es (etc. at
 great length) H'end' tenend' etc. p'fat' Thomæ Duci Norf'
 hered' et assign' suis ad p'prium opus et usum ip'ius Ducis
 hered' et assign' suor' inp'p'm. Tenend' de nob' hered' et
 success' n'ris capite p' servic'm militar' vide't p' quadragesi-
 mam partem unius feod' militis etc.

In cuius rei etc. T. R. apud West. duodecimo die Februarii
Anno regni D'n' Eliz' R'n' quinto.

p' bre' de privat' sigillo, etc.

Abstracted from a copy among the deeds of the
late Mr. Frampton.

XI.

An Abstract of the contents of the Register of Newenham Abbey in the Library of the British Museum, as exhibited in the titles affixed to the several portions into which it is divided.

Folio 1. De dedicationibus omnium altarium hujus ecclesiæ.

2. Transcript' cartæ et confirmationis ecclesiæ Ebor'.
(This is a copy of a deed of the 5 Edw. III. confirming a charter of King Henry II. without date, reciting the privileges of the abbey.)

6. Quanti presentaciones facti fuerint per diversos patronos ad ecclesiam de Axemynstre.

7. Recordum antiquum super advocac'o'e de Axminstr'.

8. Quomodo lis quievit inter Regem et Abbatem de advoc' suprad'.

Nova presentacio ad ecclesiam predictam per predictos religiosos.

Carta d'ni Regis exemplificata.

16. Consilium bonum ad lucrandam ecclesiam de Axeminstr'.

17. Rotulus redditus ass' et consuetudinis tenentium de Plenynt in adventu fratris Rogeri de Cerde tunc custodiam loci illius admittentis ad festum beati Thome apostoli anno regni regis Edwardi xxx mo.
(Also a list of hamlets and farms in the parish of Axminster.)

20 to 25 (Contain transcripts of deeds relating to the

- lawsuit concerning the patronage of the church of Axminster.)
- 26 to 31 (Contain transcripts of deeds relating to the manor of Bremelham.)
32. Consuetudinarium manerii de Axemister.
34. Aluid consuetudinarium factum p' Joh'em de Carswilli Senescallem de Axeminster et alios juratos.
36. Decenta heredum de Courtenay, (with the armorial bearings).
37. Quot vicarii fuerunt apud Axminster
Decenta heredum Alicie quarte filie Willielmi Brewere (with the arms of Mohun).
38. Corpora istorum jacent' humata coram magno altari de Nyweham.
Qualia arma portaverunt fundatores.
39. Mirabilia facta tempore regis E. secundi in Anglia.
40. De dono que vocatur Horderisgene de Roverygge ad curiam de Axeminster.
De pontibus infra manerium de Axminster.
Nomina archiepiscoporum Cant. post ingressum Normannorum in Angliam cum Rege Will'mo Bastard.
41. Nomina Regum Anglie.
43. Rectores ecclesie de Plenynt per Abbates de Nyweham presentati
Rectores ecclesie de Lovepute per Abbates et conventuum de Nyweham presentati
44. Nomina episcoporum Exon' post translacionem sedis episcopalis
Nomina abbatum Belli loci Regis
Nomina abbatum de Nyweham
46. Redditarius de Axemister tempore D'ni Roberti de Pupplesbiry abbatis de Nyweham anno regni Regis Edwardi filii regis Edwardi nono

50. De fundatoribus de Nyweham
 51. (Contains the names and admeasurements of several fields)
 52. De nominibus abbatum Belli loci
 De nominibus abbatum hujus domus et per quantum tempus unusquisque prefuit in regimine hujus monasterii.
 58. De anniversariis fundatorum hujus monasterii.

XII.

Extracts made by William of Worcester from a manuscript register at Newenham Ahbey.

“ In kalendario martirologii monasterii de Newnam prope Axmynster, ubi dominus Cobham habet pulchram manerium.

Dominus Thomas Broke, quondam dominus de Cobham, 12 die Augusti.

Thomas de Brytton episcopus Exoniensis, 26 die Septembris.

Walterus Stapulton episcopus Exoniensis, 15 die Octobris. 1445. Walterus Bonevyle.

Thomas Holbroke chevalier 15 die Novembris obiit.

Domina Johanna domina de Cobham.

Reginaldi Baybroke 13 die Januarii.

Reginaldus Maun primus fundator Newnam 20 die Januarii.

Dominus Johannes Ryly miles 10 die marcii.

Johannes Hewn 3 ius 8 die julii obiit.

Johannes Grauntsin episcopus Exoniensis, obiit 16 die julii

Nicholaus Bonevyle miles 4 die augusti.

Willelmus Cheyny miles 6 die augusti obiit.

Sancta Whyte Candida virgo jacet apud ecclesiam Whytechurch per - - - - miliaria de Cherde et dedicatur die Pentecosten.

Sancta Regina id est Reyn virgo in ecclesia prope Crockyn in comitatu Somersetiæ.

Aqua quæ currit per villam Lamport habet originem ultra Shyrbern villam per tria miliaria et currit per villas Yeville Yeldchestre et Lamport usque Myghellborough et ibi currit in flumen villæ Tanton et insimul transit per pontem de Brygewater.

In kalendario monasterii Newnham per 1 miliare de Axmyster.

Sanctus Robertus abbas Cisterciensis 29 die Aprilis.

Sanctus Hugo abbas Cisterciensis 29 die Aprilis.

Dedicatio ecclesiæ de Newnham 18 die Aprilis in honore beatæ Mariæ.

Translacio spineæ coronæ domini die 11 Augusti.

Sanctus Malachus, monachus de Hiberniæ episcopus 5 novembris obiit.

Johannes Fastolf chevalier non de Anglia obiit - - - -"

Itineraria Symonis Symeonis et Willelmi de Worcesterre &c.—E. codicibus MSS. in Bibliotheca Coll. Corp. Christi Cantab. asservatis. ed. Jacobus Nasmith, A. M. S. A. S. 1778. p. 90.

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